

Hafa Adai!

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Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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RNV Construction workers install a temporary fence at the Veterans Cemetery in Marpi. The temporary fence is made of mesh and plywood and is intended to keep stray cows away.

JUSTINE NAUTA

Temporary fence for Veterans Cemetery now up

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Following complaints of stray cows defiling the graves at the Veterans Cemetery in Marpi, the

Veterans Affairs Office had a temporary fence made of mesh and plywood installed surrounding the cemetery to keep the cows away for the moment.

According to VAO execu-

tive officer Stanley T. Iakopo, the graves of veterans and their loved ones' graves at the Veterans Cemetery are now secured with a mesh-type fence with plywood. This temporary fence is

about 200 feet long by 100 feet wide and has only one point of entry for families to enter and visit their loved ones. A permanent fence will later be installed.

See FENCE on Page 4



COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

AT A GLANCE

As of 6pm, July 9, 2020

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	307	2	309
Recovered	202	0	202
Active	100	2	102
Deaths	6*	0	6*
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			16,668

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	31	0	31
Active	1	0	1
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			10,145**

*Total includes a sailor from the USS Theodore Roosevelt.

**Total includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Health Care Corp.

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

Two passengers who had just arrived in the CNMI failed to show up for their scheduled COVID-19 test last July 7 and have been identified by police, who will then bring them to Kanoa Resort for testing and quarantine.

Warren Villagomez, who chairs the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, confirmed in a news briefing yesterday

that these passengers were supposed to be tested for their scheduled fifth day of testing.

See COVID-19 on Page 4

CPA expects airport revenue to nosedive

» **King-Hinds said goal is to keep everybody on board**

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority expects its airports to earn \$7.8 million in

fiscal year 2021, but foresees expenses to reach \$14.2 million—which means CPA is already expecting to post a net operating loss of \$6.4 million next fiscal year.

The saving grace at this time is that this loss of \$6.4 million



King-Hinds

will be covered by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security, or CARES, Act, funds that CPA has received, according to CPA board chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds yesterday.

Both aviation and non-

See CPA on Page 4

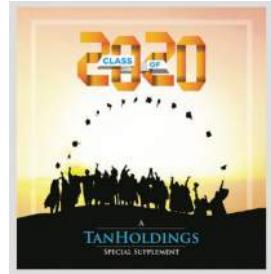
INSIDE



BUSINESS

What sets Pikasso apart is its use of glass coat technology on its repainting work.

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SUPPLEMENT

Saipan Tribune today comes with a supplement that congratulates the Class of 2020.



OFF THE WALL

Taiwan organizes a fantasy flight that allowed residents to pretend they're boarding a real flight.

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Local

Benavente responds to Kilili comments on PUA

Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente responded Wednesday to the comments of Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) regarding the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance and the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation programs.

"I wish that Congressman Kilili had come to me directly and respond[ed] to my letter to discuss the PUA and FPUC programs and to ensure the eligibility of CW workers. Both Gov. [Ralph DLG] Torres and I have continued to advocate for this from the onset of the federal assistance programs," said Benavente. "We have asked and received the federal eligibility requirements from the U.S. Department of Labor, which has taken



Benavente

the position that CW workers do not qualify for the PUA and FPUC programs. In addition to my letter to the congressman, I have personally spoken to his key staff to clarify with the U.S. Department of Labor weeks ago."

She added that the urgency to get PUA checks out has been the No. 1 priority of the governor and the department's motivation to release checks to approved applications as soon as possible.

"Every single day, our staff here at the CNMI Department of Labor are working around the clock to process claims, assist applicants in

completing applications, and answering inquiries as best as we can. We have always understood the urgency in this. Given the applications we have seen so far, we want to get these checks out immediately, but we are limited by our federal guidelines in order to ensure full compliance and approval of applications," she said.

"As you are well aware, Guam received their PUA funding two weeks prior to the CNMI. Guam released the first batch of their payments just last week. As noted, we are ready to release the first batch of our checks within the next few days, and thus are on the

same time track with regard to the release of PUA checks," she added.

Benavente acknowledged the challenges to ensure compliance with federal guidelines, as well as with the HireMarianas web portal, which has also seen similar challenges in Guam, Palau, and the Federated States of Micronesia in their web portals, which is a shared server among the U.S. Pacific territories.

"There have been challenges, and we have worked very hard with the portal developers to immediately address them. As you are also well aware, the CNMI DOL has had to work closely through this entire process with the USDOL," Benavente said. "There are very

strict guidelines with regard to information collection, application development and application protocols. The CNMI DOL was required to

create an online application portal and put in place a telephone and in-person application protocol."

See **BENAVENTE** on Next Page



NEW GRADUATES

McDonald's Saipan honors its new graduates: Dhalian Salas, who just graduated from college, and Angel Mae Oropesa, Micah Joy Batallones, Tobey Brian Manalo, and Sheila Sibetang, who just graduated from high school. Here, McDonald's general manager Jocelyn Asistores, left, and other managers, flank three of the new graduates.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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PSS commemorates eight years of EdTech

The CNMI Public School System hosted a virtual commencement ceremony of the Educational Technology Training Program, or EdTech, last June 13 and saw the participation of 80 program participants, Ed Tech instructors, school administrators, PSS key management, and members of the Board of Education.

During the ceremony—the program's eighth so far—Dr. Bobby Cruz, PSS Instructional Technology and Distance Education director, said the goal of the program is to empower the CNMI's educators with technology tools to transform teaching and learning. "This has been a year of trial and tribula-

tion for everyone, both personally and professionally. Despite these challenges, educators from across the CNMI have decided to forge on, challenging themselves to learn and grow to advance learning for all of our children," he said.

Lorraine Catienza, PSS Distance Education program manager, said their team continues to refine the program with their EdTech instructors to improve the quality of learning for the professionals they serve.

"Our goal is to continue to employ transformative use of technology to support teaching and learning, to prepare our students to meaningfully participate and succeed in an increas-

ingly tech-driven world. Our educators are the key to making this goal a reality, so we continue to invest in them," she said.

Cruz said both Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada and BOE chair Janice Tenorio

were in attendance to celebrate the accomplishment of the graduates. "Both leaders shared a joint message of pride for the hard work and commitment of all EdTech participants from both private and public schools to grow as professionals and embrace the role that technology plays in supporting learning and teaching.

Cruz said that participants explore the diverse suite of

Google tools to support teaching and learning, discuss the importance of empowering students to be digital citizens, and examine student-centered applications to produce a variety of products such as multimedia presentations, infographics, and dynamic videos. **(Kimberly A. Bautista)**

BENAVENTE

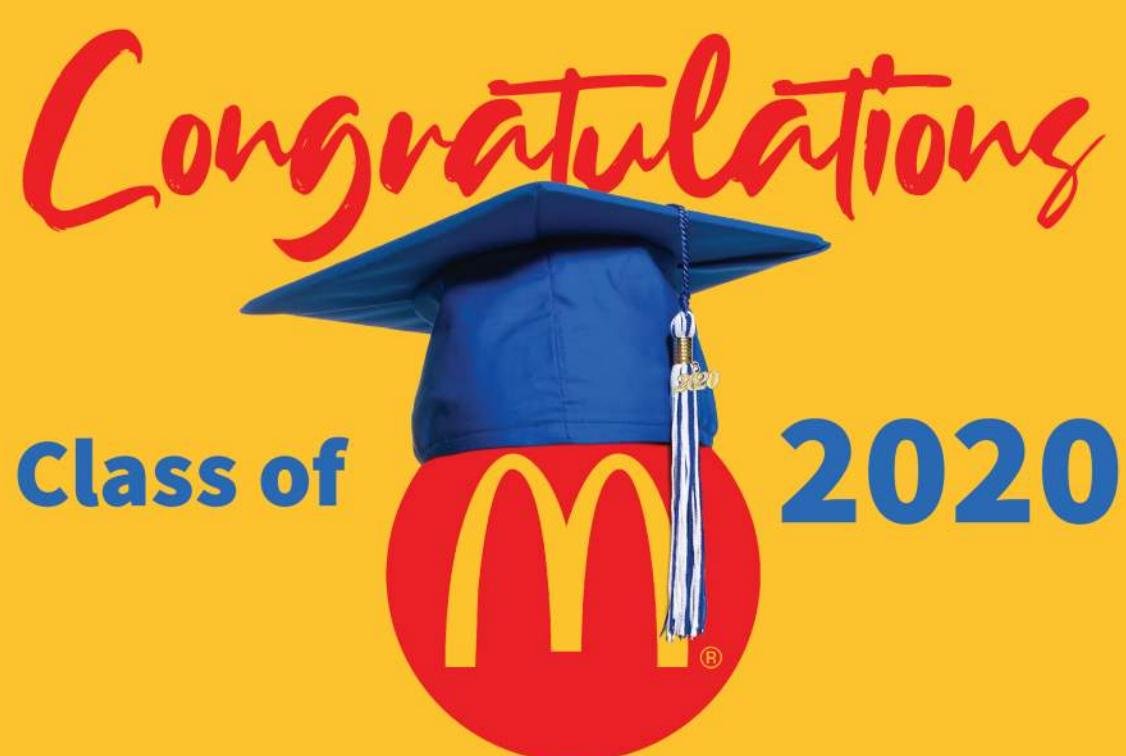
From Page 2

"In order to accomplish this, we also needed to train current staff and bring on and train reassigned public workers. Even the specific printers, ink, and paper checks required by the U.S. Department of Treasury had to be sourced and ordered. And all of this had to be done in the midst of a pandemic where protocols for the health and safety of staff and the public were put in place, which meant designing a set-up that was

primarily open-air," said Benavente.

"We are not removed from the tremendous financial hardships many are facing during this pandemic. We live here. Many are our own family members and friends. We hear from them every day, and our staff here at CNMI DOL have worked hard to get the program up and running for them and the many other families who need this assistance," she said.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com



From the management and staff of McDonald's Saipan

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B.B. King

CONGRATULATIONS

2020
GRADUATES!

From the management and staff of

Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

COVID-19

From Page 1

He said the task force is working with the Department of Public Safety to track down these two.

Villagomez stressed that they are implementing the CNMI government's directive on passengers who do not show up for their scheduled COVID-19 test.

According to the new quarantine procedures for all individuals enter-

ing the CNMI, residents who do not show up for their specimen collection appointment will be fined \$500, but these two will not be penalized just yet because the new rule only became effective yesterday, July 9. The other rules will, however, apply: They will be brought to the designated isolation site, which is Kanoa Resort in Susupe, by DPS. Additionally, as they get their specimen collected, they will be in isolation while waiting for their results.

DPS will also conduct random

quarantine compliance to check on all individuals who are registered in the Sara Alert Symptom Monitoring System and are supposed to be exercising self-quarantine.

If an individual is found disobeying the CNMI entry requirements, then the individual will be quarantined for 14 consecutive days in a manner prescribed by the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. at the designated quarantine/isolation site—at their own cost of \$400 per night including meals.

Right now, the rule for arriving passengers is that they will undergo COVID-19 testing upon arrival and, once the test comes up negative, they will be released to home quarantine. They will then be tested again on the fifth day. This was the scheduled test when the two passengers were a no-show.

As for the CHCC staffing at the Alternate Care Site at Kanoa Resort, CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña said that there is an on-call nurse who does the initial assessment and addresses the health needs (if

there is any) of those in isolation.

Villagomez stated that the ACS is 98% done, but there is still no exact date on when it will be completed. He added that because the Electronic Health Record equipment is on the way, it won't stop CHCC and the task force from using the facility. They will just have to go on paper mode to track patients.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

CPA

From Page 1

aviation revenues of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport in fiscal year 2018 was \$17.2 million. This dropped to \$13.5 million in fiscal year 2019. In fiscal year 2020, this has so far amounted to just \$7.6 million.

On the seaport side, King-Hinds said that CPA expects revenue in fiscal year 2021 to amount to \$6.8 million, with projected operating expenses at \$2.9 million. "This results in a net operating income of \$3.8 million, which will be used to fund

CPA's debt service requirements," she said.

This picture of CPA's precarious financial situation comes as it is working out its budget for the next fiscal year. CPA is proposing a budget of only \$7.8 million in for fiscal year 2021. This is about half of the agency's \$15 million budget in fiscal year 2020.

King-Hinds said that CPA's Financial Affairs Committee has already adopted the proposed budget, and it will go back to the airport tenants for review and input pursuant to the Airline Use Agreement.

"They have 30 days to comment. If [there are] no objections, it goes to

the full board for adoption," King-Hinds said.

Speaking at a recent interview, King-Hinds said that they adjusted for the expected drop in revenues, focusing on just paying the bond and personnel and taking out a lot of operational costs.

"And now it's down to \$7.8 million and \$6.1 million of that is just for salaries," she said.

She said the board knows that austerity measures imposed on personnel is hurting the staff, but that they want to make sure that they don't furlough anybody. "That's the goal: Just to keep everybody on board," she said.

CPA personnel are now down to 64 hours bi-weekly.

In her fiscal year 2021 airport budget narrative, CPA comptroller Skye Lynn L. Aldan Hofsneider said that actual revenues for the past three fiscal years have been decreasing for aviation and were volatile for non-aviation activities.

Hofsneider said total revenues decreased by 22% from fiscal year 2018 to 2019 due to the effects of Super Typhoon Yutu on airport operations and are forecasted to decrease by 43% from fiscal years 2019 to 2020 due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

She said projected revenues in fis-

cal year 2021 are budgeted on the assumption that airlines will gradually increase operations throughout the year but China routes will remain suspended.

With operational funds alone, CPA has a net revenue loss of \$6.2 million, she said.

"Although we exceed the required debt ratio coverage, caution must always be taken and expenses must be continually monitored in order to stay in compliance with CPA's bond indenture," the comptroller said.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

FENCE

From Page 1

The temporary fence was installed by RNV Construction.

The Veterans Cemetery contains the graves of approximately 100 veterans and their loved ones.

Iakopo said both temporary and permanent fences are funded by the Office of the Governor and adds approximately less than \$10,000 to the overall expenditures for the expansion of the cemetery.

"It's an issue that has been chronically ongoing and it's about cows desecrating sacred grounds," said

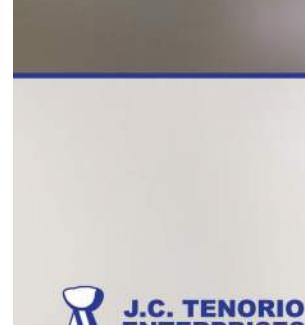
Iakopo. "There is no logical explanation to justify the desecration of our dear veterans that fought [and] defended the freedom that you and I have now. This issue is still going on and I don't understand," he said.

Iakopo says that having cow manure on a grave is highly disrespectful, considering that the veterans who

are buried at the cemetery fought and sacrificed so much.

"Yes, I take full responsibility for this, and I think society tends to forget our veterans, but we are not going to forget our veterans," said Iakopo. "I'm not pointing fingers. I'm just addressing the issue that has been long, long overdue."

Two weeks ago, on June 25, VAO, the Marianas Visitors Authority, the Department of Public Lands, and the Department of Parks and Recreation had a meeting with ranchers at the DPL building in Dandan regarding the cows violating the graves and possible solutions to keep the cows out.



Take pride in how far you've come. Have faith in how far you can go. But don't forget to enjoy the journey.

Michael Josephson

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JOETEN ENTERPRISES INC.

July 15 is deadline to file your tax

The Department of Finance is reminding everyone that the deadline for the filing of taxes in the CNMI is coming up next week, Wednesday, July 15, following a three-month extension to provide relieve due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Finance Secretary David Atalig said in an interview that the Division of Revenue & Taxation is currently working on all filings. "The tax filing deadline was moved from April 15th to July 15th. Division of Revenue & Taxation is processing all tax return filings and we hope to process the first batch of Child Tax Credit

217 EIDL totaling \$14M OK'd in Marianas

The U.S. Small Business Administration has approved over 2.2 million economic injury disaster loans nationwide, totaling \$134 billion. In the Northern Marianas, 217 loans have been approved as of July 3, with the amount totaling \$14,077,600.

Small businesses in the CNMI that have been hit economically due to COVID-19 are provided with the low-interest federal disaster loan through SBA, which they can use as working capital. Up to \$2 million

payments by Aug. 15th or earlier," he said.

"As for other tax refunds/rebates, we hope to have this all processed and paid out by end of August or early September," he added.

In March, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres announced the special relief to individuals and businesses who are struggling with the economic downturn as a result of COVID-19.

To access digital versions of the tax forms, taxpayers are encouraged to visit the Department of Finance website at www.dof.gov.mp/forms. For questions or concerns, send an email to info@dof.gov.mp. (Iva Maurin)

in economic injury disaster loan may be availed of by qualified small businesses, private non-profit organizations, small agricultural cooperatives, and small aquaculture enterprises impacted by the pandemic since Jan. 31, 2020, to help with their operating expenses.

Small businesses may apply online, or download applications at <https://disaster-loan.sba.gov/ela> to avail of this economic injury disaster loan. The deadline to apply is Dec. 21, 2020. (Iva Maurin)

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but also dream, not only plan,
but also believe.**

— Anatole France

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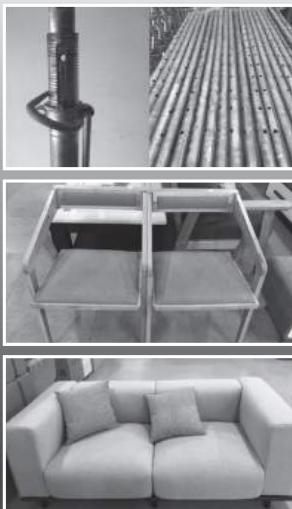
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FAQs: Presumptive eligibility for Medicaid during COVID-19 crisis

Applying for Medicaid is easier than ever during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

During the Public Health Emergency, you and your family can quickly and easily apply for CNMI Medicaid program coverage at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. This rapid application process is called "presumptive eligibility" or PE.

Individuals and families are eligible for Medicaid if their attested gross income does not exceed 180% of the Supple-

mental Security Income federal benefit, which is about \$28,800 annually for a family of four. CHCC is designated as a qualified entity to conduct Presumptive Eligibility determinations.

How do I apply for Medicaid through Presumptive Eligibility?

You can either pick up an application from the Care and Resource Assistance Office near the clinic cashier on Saipan or print the application at chcc.gov.mp (Corpo-

rate Support tab > Revenue Cycle), fill it out ahead of time, and bring it to the CARA office Monday to Friday between 7:30am and 4:30pm. The CARA office is located next to the cashier window in the outpatient clinic waiting area.

You only need to attest to your household income and family size. Nothing else is required.

Within five days, you will receive a "Notice of Determination." If it is determined that you're eligible for Medicaid

through presumptive eligibility, you can use the NOD as proof of Medicaid enrollment.

Do I get the same health care coverage as other Medicaid beneficiaries if I enroll through PE?

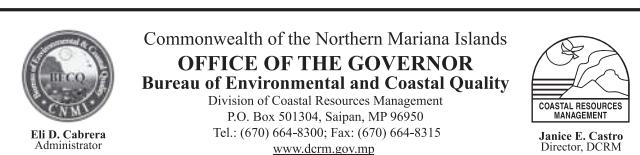
Yes, if you are enrolled to Medicaid through the Presumptive Eligibility process, you will receive the same benefits as other enrollees, but only while the Public Health Emergency is in effect.

Unless you complete the full Medicaid application and enroll in coverage the traditional way, your Medicaid coverage will cease when the Public Health Emergency is no longer in effect. It is not known how long the Public Health Emergency will last, so applicants for Medicaid coverage through PE are also strongly encouraged to turn in a full application to Medicaid for long-term Medicaid coverage beyond the Public Health Emergency.

Presumptive Eligibility impact my eligibility for permanent resident status in the future?

The public charge rule does not impose barriers on children under the age of 21 years, pregnant women, and postpartum women (60 days after delivery) from accessing Medicaid services, nor does it penalize families if their U.S.-citizen child is accessing benefits.

According to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services under the new public charge rule, a public charge is defined as an alien who has received one or more public benefits, including Medicaid, as defined in the rule, for more than 12 months within any 36-month period. An alien who is likely at any time to become a public charge is generally inadmissible to the United States and ineligible to become a lawful permanent resident. However, receiving public benefits such as Medicaid does not automatically make an alien ineligible to become a lawful permanent resident. (PR)



Public Notice

From the COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
of the CNMI'S DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

DATE: July 10, 2020

NOTICE: The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ) Division of Coastal Resource Management (DCRM) is currently reviewing a federal consistency determination request from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) regarding the specification of annual catch limits (ACL), annual catch targets (ACT), and accountability measures (AM) for the CNMI bottomfish fishery from 2020 to 2023 as recommended by the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council. More information about the proposed activity can be accessed via the DCRM website at: <https://dcrm.gov.mp/wp-content/uploads/crm/2020-07-02-CZM-MP-Proposed-2020-2023-ACL-Marianas-Bottomfish-0648-BJ82-1.pdf>

Federal consistency is a provision of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) that requires federal actions that affect the coastal zone to be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of a coastal state's federally approved coastal management plan.

Comments on whether the project is consistent with the enforceable policies of the CNMI's coastal management program can be submitted to the Division of Coastal Resources Management at FedCon@dcrm.gov.mp.

This public notice has been published for compliance with 15 CFR § 930.34. DCRM is soliciting public comments for fifteen (15) days, starting on July 10, 2020 and ending on July 25, 2020. We welcome your feedback and thank you for your consideration.

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547 | FAX: (670) 234-9537
ATTORNEY FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS)
HOUSING CORPORATION,)
Plaintiff,) CIVIL ACTION
-v-) NO. 16-0128
ANA FRANCES)
I. GATBONTO and)
IVANNI I. GATBONTO,)
Defendants.)

FIRST AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on March 26, 2018, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property:

Legal description of the property:

Lot no. 011 G 262, situated in Kagman III, Phase II, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 799 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat no. 011 G 06 dated December 1, 1993, Commonwealth Recorder's File no. 934414, dated December 16, 1993, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Total area of the property:

799 square meters, more or less

Known encumbrances:

Date, Time, and Place of Sale: The sale will be held on Friday, July 24, 2020, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public. Copies of a title insurance report for the properties are available to any prospective bidder upon request.

Terms and Conditions of Sale: The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 15th day of June, 2020:

/s/ Michael A. White, Auctioneer

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS RFP NO.: RFP20-GOV-085

SUBMISSION DATE: AUGUST 10, 2020 TIME: 09:30 A.M.

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PRE-PROPOSAL QUESTIONS – ANY QUESTIONS AND/OR CLARIFICATIONS SHALL BE SUBMITTED TO **MS. GLENNA SP REYES** IN WRITING VIA EMAIL TO glenna.sp.reyes@gmail.com NO LATER THAN **04:00 P.M., LOCAL TIME, JULY 27, 2020**. ALL QUESTIONS AND/OR CLARIFICATIONS SHALL BE SHARED WITH ALL PROPOSERS.

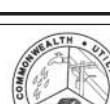
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GOVERNOR, CNMI

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

/S/ GLENNA SP. REYES
SA, MILITARY AFFAIRS



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CUC would like to inform its customers that
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TEL: (670) 234-6547 | FAX: (670) 234-9537
ATTORNEY FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS)
HOUSING CORPORATION,)
Plaintiff,) CIVIL ACTION
-v-) NO. 17-0225
The Estate of JOAQUINA)
NEKAES KANIKI,)
Deceased,)
Defendant.)

FIRST AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on February 7, 2019, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property:

Legal description of the property:

Lot no. 015 D 54, situated in Sugar King Estates, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat no. 015 D 00, the original of which was registered on September 11, 1975, as Document no. 4841, at the Land Registry, Saipan.

Total area of the property:

982 square meters, more or less

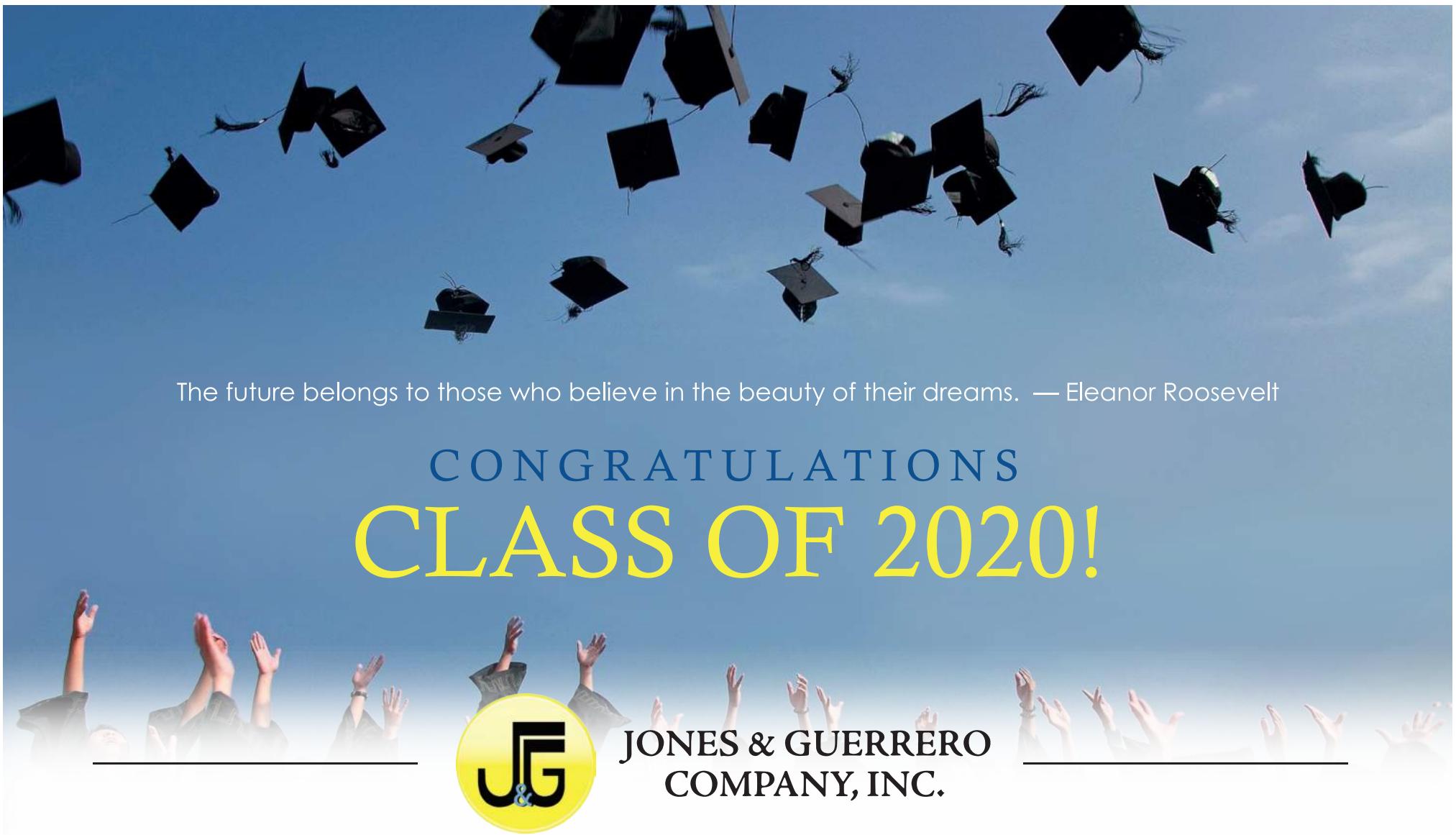
Known encumbrances:

Date, Time, and Place of Sale: The sale will be held on Friday, July 24, 2020, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public. Copies of a title insurance report for the properties are available to any prospective bidder upon request.

Terms and Conditions of Sale: The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 15th day of June, 2020:

/s/ Michael A. White, Auctioneer



The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams. — Eleanor Roosevelt

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Dear Class of 2020,

Best wishes for the next chapter in your lives. Here's to bright futures full of love, learning, and moments that make you feel alive. To quote philanthropist and amazing human being, Michelle Obama, (and because sharing quotes is something we all have to do at graduations) "It is absolutely still possible to make a difference." So we look forward to all the amazing things you will achieve.

*Congratulations,
Class of 2020!*



Northern Marianas Coalition
Against Domestic and Sexual Violence

For more information, call NMCADSV at 234-3878
or email info@endviolencenmi.org

@EndViolenceNMI

Rotary to hand out relief goods on Tinian tomorrow

The Rotary Club of Saipan will be distributing Pandemic Relief Care Packages on Tinian tomorrow, July 11, 2020, at 9am, in collaboration with the Tinian International Women's Association.

The club said in a statement yesterday that it is spearheading this food distribution project to families affected by the pandemic due to loss of employment. "We will be distributing relief goods to over 180 families on Tinian," the statement adds.

The Rotary Club said this is a continuation of the Rotary

Club's relief goods distribution this past May to hundreds of similarly affected families on Saipan and Rota, both in collaboration with the Karidat Social Services.

"Everyone in our community is affected by the pandemic and our club cares deeply about the welfare of those most vulnerable or are in need of a helping hand. We know that every little bit will help our community and this is why we continue to do what we can," the club statement said.

The Tinian distribution

will be carried out by 15 Rotary members from Saipan, who mostly will be travelling on three boats captained by Rotary members. The bags of care packages were transported to Tinian by air on Thursday, compliments of Micronesian Air Cargo Services. "This endeavor also could not have been possible without the support and contributions from our valued donors. ... We are all very excited and looking forward to this," the club said. Its many donors include Micronesian Air Cargo Ser-

vices Saipan, Tandem Skydive Saipan, D&Q Distributors, Saipan Micronesian Brokers Inc., Payless Super Fresh and Truckload Store, Karidat Social Services, and Western Sales Trading Co., as well as several individual donors.

This year's Rotary International Theme is "Rotary Opens Opportunities" and it is through this endeavor "that we were able to work collaboratively with the Tinian International Women's Association. We started planning this project a couple weeks

ago and [club] president Sonya [Dancoe] is thrilled with all the coordination they have done on Tinian to ensure everything goes smoothly. This is the beginning of many new opportunities to build new friendships, to network and to collaborate on future projects with other organizations," the club said.

Rotaract Saipan's resi-

dent Genelin Camacho and her team are also involved in this project. "The time Dancoe have spent with her is something she envisioned doing during her term and well into the future—to mentor the professional development of young future Rotarians, and to build lasting experiences together," the club statement added (PR)

CHCC pilots mobile text messaging system for those with T2 diabetes

Who can enroll in the Ayva Pilot Program?

CHCC is currently contacting patients who have been recently diagnosed with type 2 diabetes seen at the CHCC Family Care Clinic. Patients receive assistance enrolling with Ayva over the phone, as well as information about how Ayva can improve diabetes management. Upon completion of the Ayva Pilot Program, CHCC hopes to launch Ayva for other patients interested in the mobile text messaging system.

About Bravado Health

Bravado Health is a nationally recognized company

that specializes in health care technology and services. The Ayva Pilot Program aims to improve patient health outcomes, improve the delivery of care, and improve follow-up interaction with patients. Ayva aims to compliment primary care and does not substitute or replace consulting your provider.

For more information about Ayva, visit <https://www.bravadohealth.com/ayva/>. For more information about CHCC programs, follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950. (PR)



ROTARIAN OF THE YEAR

KRIZEL TUAZON
Past Rotary Club of Saipan officials Marcia Ayuyu, right, and Uncle Dave Sablan, left, present Das Krishnan with the Rotarian of the Year award during the club's installation of new officers last June 30 at the Surf Club in Chalan Kanoa. Krishnan was also sworn in to lead the Rotary Foundation.



UNITED STATES
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES



NOTICE OF COUNCIL MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 12, the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities hereby gives notice that it will hold its 3rd Quarter General Membership Meeting on July 22, 2020 from 1pm to 3pm at the Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center- Susupe, Saipan.

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Review & Adoption of Agenda of July 22, 2020
- IV. Review & Adoption of Meeting Minutes of February 7, 2020
- V. Reports
 - a. Chairperson
 - b. State Plan Committee Chairperson
 - c. Fiscal Committee Chairperson
 - d. Executive Director
- VI. Old Business
 - a. 2020 Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month Update
 - b. Accessibility in the CNMI Initiative Update
- VII. New Business
 - a. COVID-19 Pandemic Update
 - b. Emergency Preparedness Update
- VIII. Action Items
- IX. Miscellaneous
- X. Next Meeting
- XI. Adjournment

Note: Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 13(a) 7, the Council may vote to meet in Executive Session. In accordance to the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting and require special accommodations are requested to call the Council 5 days in advance at 664-7000. The Public is welcome to submit written or 3 minutes oral comments regarding the agenda above.

/s/ Jan Barcenas
Chairperson

This ad was paid for by funds from the DD Basic Grant Part A (Administrative)



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp | Website: <http://www.nmhcgov.net>
Tel Nos. 670-234-6866/234-9447; Fax No: 670-234-9021

Ralph DLG. Torres
Governor



Arnold I. Palacios
Lt. Governor

NMHC will make necessary arrangements for persons with disabilities. If you should require any special accommodations, please contact the Deputy Corporate Director 670-285-2146.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC COMMENT

Substantial Amendment to the Five Year Consolidated Plan (2015-2019) and Program Year 2019 Annual Action Plan

July 10, 2020

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) announce the availability for public review and comment, the Substantial Amendment to the Five-Year Consolidated Plan (2015 – 2019) / Annual Action Plan Program Year 2019.

NMHC's Citizen Participation Plan has triggered the need for a substantial amendment to both the Five-Year Consolidated Plan (2015- 2019) and the Annual Action Plan for Program Year 2019. The CNMI is seeking the public's comments to amend both the Five-Year Consolidated Plan (2015-2019) and the Annual Action Plan for the Program Year 2019 to include additional Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) made possible through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act to address the COVID19 pandemic in the CNMI. This is the second allocation for CDBG-COVID.

Program Allocation Project Description
CDBG-COVID \$274,635 Emergency Housing Assistance (Mortgage Assistance); Planning and Administrative Costs

The CNMI seeks to amend its PY 2019 Annual Action Plan to reflect actions needed to expedite the CNMI's response to CoVid19 and to allocate funds to activities which will serve the low-moderate income population amidst the CoVid19 pandemic and which meets the HUD National Objectives.

The drafted Substantial Amendment to the Five-Year Consolidated Plan (2015 – 2019)/Annual Action Plan Program Year 2019 will be made available for review on the NMHC website beginning Friday, July 10, 2020. In addition, due to new protocols to mitigate the spread of CoVid19, NMHC will be hosting virtual hearings through the following online forums on Thursday, July 16, 2020:

- 1) Social Media- FB Live
- 2) Zoom Video and Teleconferencing
- 3) NMHC Website Feedback

Details for the Virtual Hearing can be found on the NMHC Website.

The general public will be given the opportunity to provide comments at the virtual hearings. All written comments should be submitted through the NMHC website at www.nmhcgov.net or delivered to the Drop Box located at the NMHC Office Building in Garapan, Saipan no later than Monday, July 20, 2020. For further information, please contact Zenie Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director, at 670-285-2146.

/s/ Jesse. S. Palacios
Corporate Director

This advertisement is paid with HUD CPD Funds.



2020 Internship Cohort together with DCRM's Marine Monitoring Team & Internship Coordinators.



Dave Benavente, Lead Biologist (left), explains the process & importance of seagrass monitoring.



Interns get ready to conduct in-water seagrass surveys.



Logan Mister (left) surveys the different invertebrate species while Thomas Benavente (right) surveys the different species found within Kilili's seagrass bed.

SEAGRASS Monitoring

The Division of Coastal Resources Management's Marine Monitoring Team (MMT) are considered to be the "doctors" of our ocean. They perform regular monitoring of the health of the marine ecosystems across the CNMI including reef flats, lagoon, and seagrass habitats. In many areas around the CNMI, seagrass are the first marine environment encountered next to dry land. Seagrass beds form an important nursery habitat for several species of fish and invertebrates that move to coral reefs and other ecosystems as they mature.

On June 25th, DCRM's Summer Interns had the opportunity to monitor seagrass beds at Kilili Beach with the guidance of DCRM's Marine Monitoring Team. Our interns learned how to conduct the survey, what to look for, and how to record their observations.

Maria Terlaje, Micronesian Challenge Intern, says "seagrass is super beneficial to our environment. I learned that we can determine the quality of our seagrass population by surveying our reef flat and finding whether its species is increasing or decreasing, based on its overall percentage. After conducting this survey, I am more mindful of seagrass, seeing that it is important to help determine the health of our coastal ecosystems."

"I had the opportunity to survey invertebrate species at Kilili Beach. I was surprised to see and learn about the different species of balåti, or sea cucumber, in our lagoon. Balåti is a helpful indicator of our reef's health." says Logan Mister, Coral Reef Initiative Intern.

Regular monitoring of the benthic community allows MMT to document annual cycles in macroalgae growth. Surface runoff can capture loose dirt and other harmful chemicals when washed into our waters, providing excess nutrients to the nearshore ecosystem which can cause harmful algae to grow and persist. DCRM has implemented several programs, like **Plastic Free Marianas** and the **Garapan Clean Water Campaign**, that will help reduce the amount of runoff in our watersheds. MMT's seagrass and reef-flat monitoring data will help to evaluate and document the hopefully positive results of their management efforts.

To learn more about DCRM's Marine Monitoring Team, the Coral Reef Initiative, or other ongoing programs and projects, visit our website at www.dcrm.gov.mp or contact DCRM at outreach@dcrm.gov.mp!



www.DCRM.GOV.MP
Division of Coastal Resources Management
Tel.: (670) 664-8300 | Fax: (670) 664-8315



DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
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Opinion

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EDITORIAL

Trump shuts out foreign students forced into online-only classes

President Donald Trump may rant and rail about trade deficits in a global economy that he says rips America off, but one market the U.S. has cornered for decades, to the broader benefit of us all, is higher education. The world's students—Asia's especially—flock to our undergraduate and graduate schools in numbers unrivaled by any other nation, often paying top-dollar tuition to study here.

It may not stay that way for long, and Trump's Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency will be to blame.

A healthy country would do everything possible to keep a million-plus foreign students coming, and not only because they contribute \$45 billion annually to our economy. Nearly one-quarter of U.S. billion-dollar startup companies had a founder who first came here as an international student, according to a 2018 study.

But because of the COVID-19 pandemic—which, in no small part due to failures by the Trump administration, will likely still be raging in late 2020 and possibly 2021—many of America's colleges and universities, including Harvard, Rutgers, Princeton, Georgetown, are being forced to move most classes online.

To which ICE now tells students who came thousands of miles to study here: tough luck. If their educations go from in-person to all-virtual in the fall, foreign students will have to leave.

Trump, who has said "almost every student that comes over to this country (from China) is a spy," may pretend he's standing up for America. He's actually punching all of us in the face.

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Myths, reality and perspective on Christopher Columbus

Christopher Columbus did not set out to prove that the world was round (educated people had proven the flat-Earthers wrong centuries earlier). He was not the first European to cross the Atlantic (that title goes to Norse Viking Leif Eriksson). And he never, ever—not once—set foot on what is today the United States of America; he didn't even make it to the North American continent. (He landed on a Bahamian island during his famous 1492 journey.) Even the story of his ship names is false: The Nina and the Pinta you were told about in school? Really the Santa Clara and the nobody-remembers-anymore, but definitely not "Pinta," which was a nickname bestowed on the boat by "salty sailors," according to History.com, that meant "painted one" or "prostitute."

Those are the myths that have long been perpetuated about

See MYTHS on next page



To judge monuments, think about their meaning

At Gettysburg, where the bloodiest and most decisive battle of the Civil War occurred, no fewer than 1,320 monuments are scattered across the rolling Pennsylvania landscape. Some memorialize Union generals and their men; others remember Confederates.

One is especially poignant: the Maryland monument, which lists both Union and Confederate units from one divided state. It depicts two wounded men, one from each army, propping each other up.

There's a statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee, surveying the battlefield on horseback, and another of the Union commander, Gen. George G. Meade.

The Union monuments outnumber those of the Confederates, just as their armies did in 1863.

It's an open-air museum, and it leaves no doubt which side won: the North.

Almost 200 miles to the south, in Richmond, Va., Civil War statues were erected to convey a very different message.

Monument Avenue is the Virginia capital's grandest boulevard. Until recently, it was dominated by heroic statues of Lee, Stonewall Jackson, Confederate President Jefferson Davis and others.

They are the men who lost the war—but on Monument Avenue, they appeared triumphant.

That was the point. Richmond's statues were erected more than a generation after the war ended, after white segregationists regained control of the Southern states.

"The message (was) a victory narrative about the overturning of Reconstruction and the reestablishment of white supremacy," Yale historian David W. Blight, the biographer of Frederick Douglass, wrote last week.

Now the Richmond statues are coming down. Protesters toppled Davis on June 10, the city removed Jackson, and the governor is battling in court to remove Lee.

Their removal is long overdue. By contrast, Lee's statue in Gettysburg should remain standing because its meaning is so different.

In Richmond, Lee appears dominant, his presence designed to intimidate. At Gettysburg, outnumbered by federal troops and about to lose the most important battle of his career, he appears in a more appropriate context—as history, not mythology.

The distinction is not only whom the statue shows, but what message it conveys.

Monuments to George Washington and Thomas Jefferson celebrate their wisdom in founding the republic, not their flaws, chief among them their ownership of slaves. We honor them despite those flaws, not because of them.

By DOYLE McMANUS
Los Angeles Times



Statues of Christopher Columbus pose a tougher question. Are we honoring him for his intrepid navigating or because he opened the Americas to European colonization?

The good news about this summer's protests is that they've forced us to confront our history more squarely—not merely the mythologized version most of us received.

Case in point: Army bases. Until last month, how many of us knew that 10 U.S. Army bases in the South were named for Confederate officers who fought against the United States? The names were usually given to placate white politicians.

The strangest is Fort Bragg, N.C., named for Braxton Bragg, perhaps the least competent general in Lee's army. One of his officers called him "cruel, yet without courage ... crafty, yet without strategy." He resigned his commission after losing the battle of Chattanooga.

Defense Secretary Mark Esper says he's open to changes, but President Trump has declared the Army bases' names a matter of high principle. The only principle involved is his relentless drive to nail down his conservative base by pushing a culture war against Black Lives Matter.

The president waded back into the battle at Mt. Rushmore last week, charging spuriously that protesters against racism "are determined to tear down every statue, symbol and memory of our heritage."

This argument has a long way to go. Since the death of George Floyd, 22 Confederate statues have come down—but 748 are still standing, according to the Southern Poverty Law Center.

And most of the public agrees with the protesters, not with the president. A Quinnipiac University poll last month found that a small majority, 52%, think the statues should come down—a notable change in public opinion.

The protests have not only started useful conversations; they appear to be building a new national majority in favor of change.

Those Confederate generals should be hoisted off their pedestals and put where they belong: in a museum or on a battlefield, not in a position of honor.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Pandemic aid helps make the case for basic income

The relief programs supporting Americans through the pandemic are also demonstrating the viability of a bold proposal for reducing poverty: basic income.

The idea of basic income—paying a monthly fixed amount to each person in the country—has been around for a long time. Recently it has gained more attention and support. It has the advantages of simplicity and universality, but one big question has always loomed: What if it stopped people from working? Ultimately, society's wealth is based on human beings producing things, and if people feel that a basic income means they don't need to work, they might stop producing altogether, leaving society poorer.

Empirical studies and limited experiments have generally found that basic income does little to discourage paid work. But these studies have lacked the scale to tell us much about how a large nationwide program would work.

Now, the national response to the coronavirus pandemic is giving us some valuable information. The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (Cares) Act, passed in March, provided a small payment to every adult, but it also delivered very generous unemployment benefits to American workers who lost their jobs because of the pandemic. Under this program, a family of four with one laid-off worker would receive \$4,100 a month, in addition to normal unemployment benefits. That's in the ballpark of the country's median family income of \$4,920—in other words, an unprecedentedly large cash handout.

This benefit was so generous that—according to a new working paper by economists Jeehoon Han, Bruce Meyer and James Sullivan—it actually reduced poverty in the U.S., compared

with the pre-pandemic period. And so far, it seems to have accomplished this without deterring people from working.

When the relief package was announced, there was much fretting that paying people more than one dollar for every dollar of market income that they lost created an obvious incentive for people not to work. But a preliminary analysis by economists Hilary Hoynes and Jesse Rothstein found that states where unemployment benefits were higher relative to lost wages actually saw less of a drop in employment. In other words, more generous payouts haven't been associated with more job loss.

Reducing poverty without deterring work sounds like a great deal. So basic income advocates are looking at this success and asking: If giving people money reduces poverty during a pandemic, why not do it in normal times too?

Of course, Cares Act unemployment benefits differ from basic income in several important ways. First, the payout is conditional. Although some workers can continue to claim some benefits if they go back to work, some can't, and those who never lost their jobs or who never had jobs in the first place don't get the benefit at all.

But this only strengthens basic income's case. If payments that vanish or diminish when you go back to work don't deter people from getting jobs, then basic income shouldn't do so either.

A more important caveat is that the pandemic relief benefits are not permanent. The payouts are set to expire at the end of this month, and though they may be extended for a while, Republicans are already starting to push back. That gives people an added incentive to find work because a job will last longer than the government checks will. Basic income, on the other hand,

By NOAH SMITH

Bloomberg Opinion

Noah Smith is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. He was an assistant professor of finance at Stony Brook University, and he blogs at Noahpinion. This column does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the editorial board or Bloomberg LP and its owners.



never ends, so the incentive to be a couch potato and live off the dole might be greater.

It's also possible that as the pandemic progresses, labor disincentive effects might appear. States with higher replacement rates are really just states with low wages; these might be the very places that avoided the worst of the virus in the first wave, but are now getting hit hard. So Hoynes and Rothstein's tentative conclusions might be premature.

Finally, there's the question of how to pay for basic income. Pandemic unemployment benefits are driving an unprecedented expansion of federal debt, which is set to exceed the record levels set in World War II. That can't continue forever. Basic income, by contrast, will have to be paid for with taxes on high earners. It's not clear that such taxes would be politically sustainable or would have negative effects on the economy in the long run.

But although the case for basic income is not yet a slam-dunk, pandemic relief benefits add circumstantial evidence in favor. The idea deserves more serious attention than it has received so far.

T.O.A.S.T.: Telling Old Age Sonnet Tales

This poem is dedicated to my younger sister Ellie, who had a palomino horse in her early teens that she called El Dorado. She took the horse's name from the Edgar Allan Poe poem, El Dorado. Poe's poem and Ellen's careers as a home economics teacher and blueberry, strawberry, rhubarb, and cherry farmer were my inspiration.

My Sister Ellie's Potato

It was Irish all right though at times a French Canadian fried delight covered with a thick sauce of tomato sometimes it was gold, blue, russet brown or red they always kept us five Connolly children well fed we sure looked forward toward eating Ellie's potato sometimes they would get soft or grow green and black and stinky rotten from sitting for too long in a sack usually they were edible ready to cook and found some oblong with eyes, good and hard all around we found every one of them that had the knack and took a dozen that looked good and were hard

wrapped in aluminum foil to roast in the back yard or over to our friends or a nearby neighbor's patio 'baked potato' said we 'hot fire roasting makes thee' a model to be named for our sister Ellie's potato oh for mountains of mashed with salt and pepper and butter stashed inside our mouths it would go whether it was baked, roasted, boiled or fried my sister Ellie's delicious and nutritious potato.

Mr. Glenn, A Maven Forevermore

Another Edgar Allan Poe poem, The Raven, was my inspiration for this sonnet dedicated to my old friend, Glenn O'Leary, on his 70th birthday last April 2020. A maven is a Yiddish word for someone who understands how to do something or take care of things very well.

Ah distinctly I remember though a cold dreary April come to the high desert as she often will my old Louisiana friend Mr. Glenn O'Leary's

worked up after a reading of the Declaration of Independence that they collectively marched toward Broadway and ripped down a 2-ton statue of King George III that had been erected six years earlier, according to a piece in National Geographic magazine. Eventually, the British coat of arms was pulled off a courthouse as well, a stone pediment with the same symbol destroyed and the king's portrait set on fire.

Of course, we are not in any way advocating a repeat of the events of July 9, 1776—or July 4, 2020, for that matter. As Gen. Washington noted, advising his troops to stay away from such scenarios in the future, defacing property in such a way gives "the appearance of a riot, and want of order."

While we may understand and even embrace the rationale behind the recent action in Baltimore, we don't condone the act itself. It was not heroic; it was dangerous and inflammatory. The marble statue was dedicated 36 years ago on the false premise, inscribed on its base, that Columbus was the "discoverer of America." But it was not posing an immediate threat to anything other than our collective sensibilities. Toppling it could have killed someone. There's a process that should have been followed to initiate its removal safely, legally and promptly; more on that in a minute.

No, our hope here is to bring some perspective to such deeds and the words now surrounding them.

The demolition of the statue undoubtedly felt good in the moment for those participating and is hardly unique to Baltimore;

LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY CONNOLLY

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey aka Pepe Batbon is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. He is a sonnet practitioner who enjoys star-gazing.



forthcoming birthday was on top of the bill at the good ole boys Southern crawfish boil with Leroy, carpenter friends, and Jules Hebert over an open fire he grilled chicken with toil corn on the cob Cajun spices they did prepare I thought of him and remembered oh so well Colorado, Louisiana, Philadelphia's Freedom Bell how his love and friendship and sense of humor brought calm peace from Viet Nam to Hammond and like the good "Doc" Mr. Glenn always says aided now by his better half Ms. Carol Fernandez.

Columbus was beheaded in Boston, ripped down in Minnesota and tossed in a lake in Virginia. But just because everyone's doing it doesn't make it right, and the action here also offended Italian Americans who saw it as an affront to their heritage and dismissal of the discrimination they've faced as a group through the years. They absolutely should have been consulted in crafting a solution here.

The statue toppling has also been picked up as a talking point by Republican Gov. Larry Hogan who appears to be equating it, somewhat ridiculously, with violent crime in the city. And it feeds into the phony narrative President Donald Trump is spinning about a "left-wing cultural revolution."

It also redirected what should be a conversation about historical accuracy, inhumanity and how to achieve an equitable future to one chiefly focused on symbols and their worth. In other words, it's become a distraction to the cause.

But that's not just the fault of those who took the statue down; it's also the fault of those who didn't recognize where the demands for change rocking our country right now were headed. Philadelphia leaders got it: Mayor Jim Kennedy launched a public process three weeks ago to figure out what to do with that city's Christopher Columbus statue on South Broad Street—before residents felt so unheard that they had to take matters into their own hands.

MYTHS

From Page 10

the Italian master navigator, who might not even have been Italian; there are theories out there that he was Portuguese, Spanish or possibly even Scottish. Now here are the realities: Columbus indeed charted a path leading to European colonization of the Americas. And he absolutely terrorized the Indigenous Taino people of the Caribbean. He and his men killed them, abducted them, enslaved them, raped them, chopped off their hands for not delivering gold dust on demand and—according to a firsthand account by Bartolome de las Casas, a participant turned repentant Dominican friar—"grabbed suckling infants by the feet and, ripping them from their mothers' breasts, dashed them headlong against the rocks."

Likewise, there are some myths and realities we should discuss about the protesters who tore down the Christopher Columbus statue near Baltimore's Little Italy neighborhood and chucked it into the harbor. Those who consider them an un-American angry mob might want to take another look at history themselves: Tearing down symbols deemed offensive is something of a patriotic tradition in this country, going back to the birth of our independence.

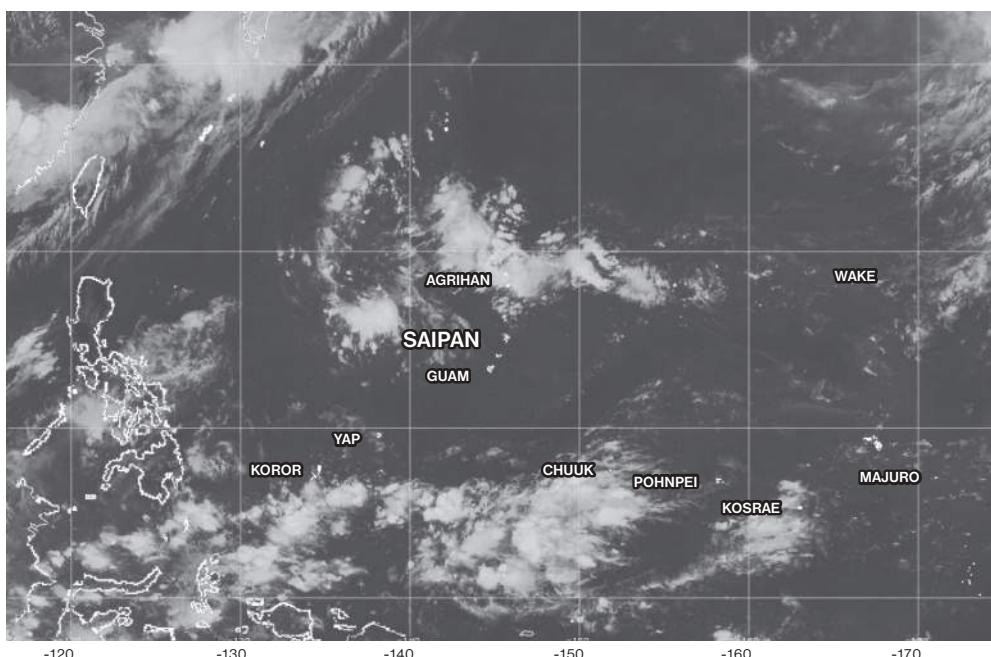
On Thursday, 244 years ago to the day, a New York City crowd that included some of Gen. George Washington's troops got so

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly sunny with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
89°	78°	89°	78°	89°
89°	78°	89°	78°	89°
89°	78°	89°	78°	89°
89°	78°	89°	78°	89°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:46 AM, THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2020

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Light east winds and a few showers prevail across the Marianas this morning.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklist-household-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
- Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
- Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available,

- able, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors



CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

MICRONESIA		
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	86° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorm	83° / 76°
Yap	Thunderstorm	85° / 78°
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	87° / 79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	86° / 76°
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	86° / 76°
Majuro	Thunderstorm	86° / 81°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:53 AM	6:51 PM
Saturday	5:53 AM	6:51 PM
Sunday	5:53 AM	6:51 PM
Monday	5:54 AM	6:51 PM
Tuesday	5:54 AM	6:51 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	10:05 AM	10:48 PM
Saturday	-	10:53 AM	11:24 PM
Sunday	-	11:39 AM	11:59 PM
Monday	-	12:25 PM	-
Tuesday	12:34 AM	1:12 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE		
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	57° / 50°
Beijing	Rain	75° / 70°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	91° / 82°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	87° / 75°
London	Partly Cloudy	75° / 57°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	87° / 70°
Manila	Thunderstorm	84° / 79°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	55° / 39°
Miami	Thunderstorm	88° / 79°
New York	Mostly Sunny	93° / 72°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	90° / 77°
Paris	Sunny	77° / 57°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	82° / 75°
Rome	Sunny	88° / 70°
Salem	Thunderstorm	94° / 72°
San Francisco	Sunny	70° / 55°
Seoul	Cloudy	88° / 75°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	88° / 77°
Washington, DC	Sunny	94° / 74°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
5:48 AM	LOW TIDE	1.28
10:14 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.75
5:27 PM	LOW TIDE	0.29
-	HIGH TIDE	-

FLIGHT SCHEDULE

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117 9:15am 9:55am 1, 4, 6

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174 7:30am 8:11am 1, 4, 6

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301.2	8:30AM	9:00AM	Tues/Fri
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Tues/Fri

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101.2	9:30AM	10:00AM	Tues/Fri
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Tues/Fri

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Temporarily Unavailable</td

NMI awarded \$443.7K to protect corals, combat invasive species

The Division of Coastal Resources Management has been awarded \$205,890 in Coral Reef Initiative and Natural Resources program funding by the Office of Insular Affairs to update the watershed management plan and priorities for the Laolao watershed area.

This is part of the nearly \$1.6 million in program funding that U.S. Department of the Interior's OIA is awarding to protect coral reefs, conduct clean-up and restoration activities, and combat invasive species through a variety of projects across the U.S. territories and freely associated states.

The funds awarded to the CNMI will also be used to conduct revegetation of the deforested and eroded

uplands areas and provide wildfire surveillance in the Achugao watershed area. Reforestation efforts will improve soil stability and decrease the threat of erosion and sedimentation buildup on the coral reef and near-shore ecosystems.

The popular Watershed Warriors program will be expanded into Achugao, providing meaningful outdoor science education to 4th graders.

Funds will also support the CNMI's participation at the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force's biannual meetings.

The Nova Southeastern University, an academic institution in Florida, is also awarded \$200,000 that will be used to manage the National Coral Reef Management Fellowship as a top priority.

ment Fellowship, a program that places a competitively-selected coral fellow in American Samoa, Guam, the CNMI, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

One coral fellow is placed in each territory's local jurisdictional agency responsible for managing coral reefs and is embedded in local governments to support the coral management and policy needs of each jurisdiction. Other federal partners provide funding to support coral fellows in Hawaii, Florida, and Puerto Rico, as well as travel, training, and professional development for all seven coral fellows.

The insular area governments have identified the National Coral Reef Management Fellowship as a top priority.

Other grants provided through the Coral Reef Initiative and Natural Resources program for fiscal year 2020 are awarded to the U.S. Virgin Islands' Department of Planning and Natural Resources (\$239,970); non-profit organization Ridge to Reefs in Palau (\$150,275); American Samoa's Office of the Governor (\$135,930); and Guam Bureau of Statistics and Plans (\$103,057).

In addition, three grants totaling \$591,103 were provided under the fiscal year 2020 Coral Reef Initiative and Natural Resources program to combat invasive species in several U.S. territories.

The CNMI Department of Land and Natural Resources will get \$237,795, to be used to eradicate the *Mucuna pruriens*, also known as velvet bean, an invasive non-native vine species that has overrun several forested areas and communities on Saipan and has been known to trigger allergic reactions and lead to hospitalization for individuals with certain skin conditions.

The American Samoa Department of Marine and Wildlife will get \$297,791 and the USVI Department of Planning and Natural Resources will get \$55,517.

These three grants are in addition to \$942,206 announced and awarded earlier this year on May 20, 2020, for a total of \$1,533,309 provided in fiscal year 2020 funds to combat invasive species in the insular areas. The brown tree snake, while

also an invasive species on Guam, is funded separately through the Brown Tree Snake Control program and was also announced in May.

All projects are funded through the Office of Insular Affairs' Coral Reef Initiative and Natural Resources program and are made available each year by Congress to support the protection of coral reefs and natural resources in the U.S. territories and the freely associated states. (PR)

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT



Happy birthday greetings go out to Lenette F. Maratita, who will be celebrating her special day on July 12. Happy birthday and God bless! May your birthday weekend be as beautiful as you are. Greetings come from Magic Mike and Wolverine.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

American Sinopan sued for alleged non-payment of services

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A company filed a lawsuit against American Sinopan LLC yesterday for allegedly failing to pay at least \$80,000 in construction contracting services for the Heaven II Hotel on Capital Hill.

Yantze Corp., through

counsel Mark A. Scoggins, is suing American Sinopan for breach of contract and unjust enrichment before the U.S. District Court for the NMI. Yantze is demanding actual damages, interest, and attorney's fees,



Saipan Tribune tried to obtain comments from American Sinopan, but the company's number listed in the phone directory is not in service.

Scoggins said the sole member of Ameri-

can Sinopan is Imperial Pacific Real Estate & Hotel Management Company Limited, a British Virgin Islands company.

Scoggins said that Yantze entered into an agreement with American Sinopan LLC in October 2017, agreeing to provide construction contracting services for the Heaven II Hotel.

The lawyer said American Sinopan has failed to pay amounts owed under the agreement in the amount of at least \$80,000.

He said American Sinopan has breached the agreement with Yantze and is unjustly enriched by the services that Yantze provided.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-20-023

CHINA TOWN WATERLINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of China Town Waterline Replacement in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists, in general installation of a new main waterline and lateral service line; connection to the existing waterline; relocation of water meters from private property to right-of-way; installation of gate valve assembly, air release valves, fire hydrant assembly, flush hydrants; existing lateral service tap relocation; restoration of existing asphalt concrete road; and other related work. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **365 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **June 25, 2020 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-20-023, China Town Water Line Replacement Project", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on July 16, 2020**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidder. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on June 30, 2020** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Ms. Kirzie Alley Reyes, CUC Water/Wastewater Jr. Engineer via email kirzie.reyes@cucgov.org and Ms. Christie L. Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Technician Senior via email christie.sablan@cucgov.org

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth Zoning Board Meeting

Thursday, July 23, 2020 | 5:00 PM
Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center Building
Tel: 234-9661/2 • Fax: 234-9666 • www.zoning.gov.mp



AGENDA

- A. **Preliminary Matters**
 - 1. Call to Order
 - 2. Roll Call
 - 3. Adoption of Agenda
 - 4. Adoption of 02/25/2020 Zoning Board Meeting minutes
 - 5. Public Comments (not related to files for discussion under item B. Public Hearings)
- B. **Public Hearings:**
 - 1. Conditional Use Application #2020-0730: Shalom Church proposes to occupy a pre-existing one-story structure for its Church establishment. This use is classified as "Church or Place of Worship" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. The site is located on Lot No. TR. 21859-3-1 in Fina Sisu village. This area is zoned as Village Residential.
 - 2. Conditional Use Application #2019-5005: Global Corporation Phoenix Garden A proposes to occupy a pre-existing one-story structure for its Bed & Breakfast establishment. This use is classified as "Bed & Breakfast" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. The site is located on Lot No. 128 D 36 in Garapan village. This area is zoned as Village Residential.
 - 3. Conditional Use Application #2019-5007: Global Corporation Phoenix Garden C proposes to occupy a pre-existing one-story structure for its Bed & Breakfast establishment. This use is classified as "Bed & Breakfast" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. The site is located on Lot No. 128 D 43 in Garapan village. This area is zoned as Village Residential.
 - 4. Conditional Use Application #2020-1492: Marked 4 Life Tattoo is proposing to occupy & operate its tattoo services. This use is classified as "Personal Services" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 010 K 224 in Dandan village.
 - 5. Conditional Use Application #2020-0720: Pacific International Property Management LLC is proposing to construct two structures for Residential Use (Multifamily or Apartment). This use is classified as "Residential Uses" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located
- C. **Communication**
 - 1. FY 2021 Budget
 - 2. FY 2019 DRAFT Annual Report
 - 3. Department Organizational and Functional Chart
- D. **Old Business**
 - 1. ITB 19-ZB-134 "Vehicle purchase for Enforcement & Operations"
 - 2. Nuisance Abatement & Blighted Properties Maintenance Act of 2018 Regulations
- E. **Executive (Closed) Session**
- F. **New Business**
 - 1. Election of Officers
 - 2. Operations Reports (Permitting & Enforcement)
- G. **Miscellaneous**
 - 1. Other Matters
 - 2. Announcements
 - 3. Next Meeting
- H. **Adjournment**

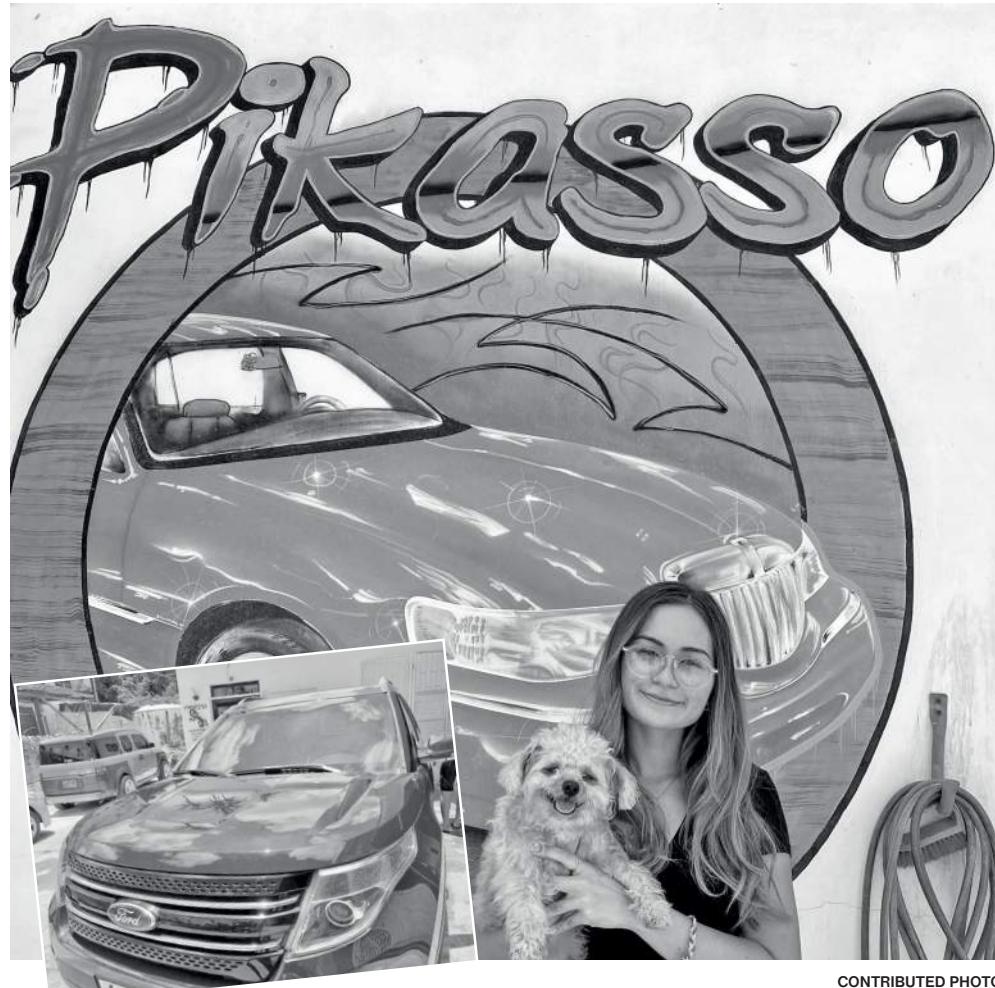
In an effort to provide public access to this meeting during this pandemic, the Commonwealth Zoning Board will also air this meeting via:

Zoom Video Communications
Meeting Link: <https://zoom.us/j/6853007492?pwd=SIVzQWdGK0x3ci90UUh6REkydU1wQT09>
Meeting Code: 685 300 7492
Password: July23

This meeting will also be aired on the Office of the Governor's Facebook page.

Business

Pikasso pioneers glass coat technology on Saipan



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Just a few of Pikasso's glass coat results.

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Julia Yasuda didn't expect to be managing an auto shop at the tender age of 21. But then her father unexpectedly passed away a little over a year ago, and now she runs Pikasso, an auto shop that specializes in glass coat technology.

"Pikasso was established in May 2016 by my father, Masanari Yasuda. Pikasso was handed down to me by my father a few months before he passed away," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Julia started working with her father in September 2018 and was his right hand at all times. "My father took me under his wing and allowed me to learn the ropes of running Pikasso.

Like all other businesses, Pikasso wasn't spared from the economic turmoil of the COVID-19 pandemic. "Due to the pandemic, our sales have decreased. I've had to reduce our store hours and was on the verge of closing the shop," she said.

Aside from the coronavirus, one of the biggest challenges Pikasso experienced the past couple of years is the renewal of the auto shop's staff that are under the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker program.

"We've faced many difficulties throughout the years, all of which have been quite challenging, but I must say that the renewal for CW-1 was a tough process and very costly," she said.

Julia said most of Pikasso's employees are CW workers and are highly qualified, do a

phenomenal job, and always exceed her expectations.

"What the workers have here at Pikasso is technique and skill, which is very important to me because I want our customers to be satisfied with the results of their vehicles. This helps us in earning their trust. It's difficult to find the same quality of worker that my employees have and Pikasso is very lucky to have them," she said.

At the moment, Pikasso has a promotion for new vehicles that starts at \$100 off of glass coating and \$60 off for under-

coating. She might be new in running an auto shop, but Julia is already looking at expanding Pikasso's services, especially after the COVID-19 crisis passes. "We plan to expand and upgrade our production facilities. I envision a sleek, clean, modern look for our shop that gives off an inviting aura when customers come in. I also intend on enhancing our value-added services in the near future. Many customers have made inquiries on whether we do tinting or bedliner paint services. Therefore, I am currently doing my research to obtain the best quality for our clients."

Pikasso is located at the foot of the hill going up to the Northern Marianas College (right side). They're open 8am-3pm, Monday to Friday. For any inquiries or quotations, do not hesitate to give them a call at 234-3358.

Nation

Americans face testing delays as virus surges

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—With a cough and shortness of breath, it took Austin, Texas, resident Sam Lee three tries to get a COVID-19 test.

The first time, he showed up an hour before the public testing site was set to close and was told they had reached capacity. He was turned away from a second center when rain shut it down, and voluntarily left a third after someone ahead of him said they had been waiting in line for more than three hours.

"If you have symptoms and you are just driving around the city trying to figure out how you can get a test, for people who are positive, it is not ideal," said Lee, who finally got a test on June 29 after he showed up at a site before dawn and waited for more than two hours. Another five days passed before he was able to view the results online, and he didn't receive a text with the results until seven days after being tested.

Four months, 3 million confirmed infections and over 130,000 deaths into the coronavirus outbreak in the U.S., Americans confronted with a resurgence of the scourge are facing long

Testing has been ramped up nationwide, reaching

Driver who hit Seattle protesters charged with 3 felonies

SEATTLE (AP)—Prosecutors on Wednesday filed three felony charges against the man who hit two protesters with his car, killing one, while driving on a Seattle freeway that was closed for Black Lives Matter demonstrations.

The King County Prosecuting Attorney's office charged Dawit Kelete, 27, with vehicular homicide, vehicular assault and reckless driving. He's scheduled to be arraigned on July 22 and remains in custody on \$1.2 million bail.

Kelete drove around vehicles that were parked on Interstate 5 to protect the protesters, hitting two people at about 1:40 a.m. Saturday, according to the Washington State Patrol.

Summer Taylor, a 24-year-old veterinary clinic worker, suffered critical injuries and died Saturday night. Diaz Love, 32, from Portland, Oregon, was hospitalized in serious condition. Prosecutors said

lines at testing sites in the summer heat or are getting turned away. Others are going a week or more without receiving a diagnosis.

Some sites are running out of kits, while labs are reporting shortages of materials and workers to process the swabs.

Some frustrated Americans are left to wonder why the U.S. can't seem to get its act together, especially after it was given fair warning as the virus wreaked havoc in China and then Italy, Spain and New York.

"It's a hot mess," said 47-year-old Jennifer Hudson of Tucson, Arizona. "The fact that we're relying on companies and we don't have a national response to this, it's ridiculous. ... It's keeping people who need tests from getting tests."

It took Hudson five days to make an appointment through a CVS pharmacy near her home. She booked a drive-up test over the weekend, more than a week after her symptoms — fatigue, shortness of breath, headache and sore throat — first emerged. The clinic informed her that her results would probably be delayed.

Testing has been ramped up nationwide, reaching

Love suffered multiple leg and arm fractures and internal injuries and remains hospitalized.

In a note posted on Facebook late Sunday, Love reported being "alive and stable."

"In a lot of pain. I cannot believe Summer was murdered," the post said. "If they thought this murder would make us back down, they are very wrong. Very wrong."

Kelete's lawyer, John Henry Browne, said his client, who is Black, did not intentionally hit the protesters. He said the crash was a "horrible, horrible accident."

"There's absolutely nothing political about this case whatsoever," Browne told The Associated Press. "My client is in tears. He's very remorseful. He feels tremendous guilt."

Kelete is originally from Eritrea, in northeastern Africa, and is a U.S. citizen, Browne said. He lives with his parents in Seattle, and they're very religious, he said. During his

about 640,000 tests per day on average, up from around 518,000 two weeks ago, according to an Associated Press analysis. Newly confirmed infections per day in the U.S. are running at over 50,000, breaking records at practically every turn.

More testing tends to lead to more cases found. But in an alarming indicator, the percentage of tests coming back positive for the virus is on the rise across nearly the entire country, hitting almost 27% in Arizona, 19% in Florida and 17% in South Carolina.

While the U.S. has conducted more tests than any other nation, it ranks in the middle of the pack in testing per capita, behind Russia, Spain and Australia, according to Johns Hopkins University.

"I am stunned that as a nation, six months into this pandemic, we still can't figure out how to deliver testing to the American people when they need it," said Dr. Ashish Jha, director of Harvard's Global Health Institute. "It is an abject failure of leadership and shows that the federal government has not prioritized testing in a way that will allow us to get through this pandemic."

only court appearance, the judge prohibited photographers from taking pictures of his face because he had not yet been charged.

A message seeking comment from Black Lives Matter Seattle-King County said they have no comment on the charges.

Kelete was the owner of the Jaguar XJL and was alone in the car, according to the state patrol.

A security camera on the REI building captured Kelete's car driving the wrong way up the Stewart Street I-5 exit ramp, past numerous warning signs that said "Wrong Way," according to the charging document. Since it was an exit ramp, "a driver must make a deliberate and sharp right U-turn in order to drive southbound on I-5," the document said.

He was traveling at freeway speeds when he first noticed the demonstrators, the document said.

Asia

PH virus cases soar past 50K as lockdown eases

MANILA, Philippines

(AP)—Confirmed coronavirus infections in the Philippines soared past 50,000 on Wednesday in a troubling milestone for a country that has reopened an economy on the brink of recession while still struggling to combat the pandemic.

The Department of Health reported 2,539 new cases, bringing the country's total to 50,359, including 1,314 deaths. The Philippines' caseload is the second largest in Southeast Asia, where the combined number of infections has surpassed those in China, where the pandemic emerged.

President Rodrigo Duterte eased a tough virus lockdown in the Philippine capital of more than 12 million people on June 1 after the economy shrank slightly in the first quarter, its first contraction in more than two decades. The downturn may be worse in the second quarter and usher in a recession, economic officials said.

Indonesia, hardest hit by the pandemic in the region, has also walked a tightrope by resuming business activities last month despite continuing spikes in infections.

"I think we have no alternative but to really reopen the economy," presidential

spokesman Harry Roque said. "If we still can't reopen, maybe we'll stay alive but eventually die because we have no jobs," he added. "We're looking at the balance."

Duterte suggested in remarks broadcast on Wednesday that he will be careful in further relaxing coronavirus restrictions, saying he could not be as bold as U.S. President Donald Trump and Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro.

Bolsonaro, who at times downplayed the risk posed by COVID-19, announced Tuesday that he has tested positive for the virus. Brazil currently has the second largest number of infections in the world after the United States.

"I'm sorry but I cannot really ... remove the leash," Duterte said on TV, adding that if he allowed massive numbers of people back into the streets, the result might be "too horrible to ponder."

The Philippines has been particularly battered as a leading source of global labor.

Aside from massive domestic job losses due to quarantine restrictions and business closures, the Philippines has scrambled to deal with tens of thousands of Filipinos who have flown home after losing

overseas jobs.

Authorities shut Manila's international airport for a week in May to allow time to decongest quarantine centers in the capital which have been overwhelmed by more than 24,000 returned workers. Dozens of cruise ships have anchored in Manila Bay and waited for weeks or months for their thousands of Filipino crew to be tested before they were allowed by Philippine authorities to disembark.

Finding the balance between public health and reviving the economy has been fraught with dilemmas.

Officials acknowledge that the rising number of infections is a red flag but say it does not currently pose a high risk to a gradual resumption of economic activities if people follow mandatory health safeguards, including wearing face masks and social distancing.

Nearly 800,000 people have been tested for the virus so far and about 7% were found to have been infected, officials said.

Experts and even some of Duterte's political allies have called for more testing and tracking of people who may have been exposed to the virus for a clearer picture of the outbreak.

Hong Kong inaugurates Beijing's national security office

HONG KONG (AP)—Beijing's national security office was inaugurated in Hong Kong on Wednesday, just over a week after China's central government imposed a tough new law on the city that critics view as a further deterioration of freedoms promised to the former British colony.

The inauguration came as Hong Kong's education bureau announced Wednesday that schools must not allow students to play, sing or broadcast the protest anthem "Glory to Hong Kong" because it contains political messages. Last week, the city criminalized the pro-democracy slogan "Liberate Hong Kong, revolution of our time" under the new national security law, which took effect on June 30.

Critics see the law as Beijing's boldest move yet to erase the divide between Hong Kong's Western-style system and mainland China's authoritarian way of governing.

The fear is that the law erodes the special freedoms enjoyed in Hong Kong, which has operated under a "one

country, two systems" framework since China took control of the city from Britain in 1997. That arrangement has allowed Hong Kong's people freedoms not permitted in mainland China, such as public dissent and unrestricted internet access.

Following a flag-raising ceremony, at which the Chinese flag was hoisted outside the office, Lam and the former Hong Kong leaders unveiled a plaque bearing the name of the new agency. Officials present then congratulated one another on the opening.

Under the national security law, police now have sweeping powers to conduct searches without warrants and order internet service providers and platforms to remove messages deemed to be in violation of the law.

On Wednesday, Microsoft and Zoom said they would take similar action.

TikTok announced Tuesday that it would stop operations of its app in Hong Kong, and by Tuesday the app could not be downloaded from Hong Kong's Apple and Google app stores.

At a lawmakers panel on Tuesday, pro-democracy lawmakers grilled Hong Kong's secretaries for security and justice over the law and its implementation rules.

World

Criticism of US pullout from WHO from allies, China alike

GENEVA (AP)—Top U.S. allies on Wednesday denounced the planned pullout of the United States from the World Health Organization, with the Italian health minister calling it "wrong" and a political ally of Germany's chancellor warning that the withdrawal could make more room on the world stage for China.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, meanwhile, ratcheted up the Trump administration's months of criticism of the U.N. health agency. The U.S., which is facing criticism for its own handling of the coronavirus, leads the world in confirmed cases and deaths, a situation that President Donald Trump has sought to blame on China.

In his comments, Pompeo repeated the WHO's alleged failures in responding to the virus's emergence in the Chinese city of Wuhan in December and accused the agency of having "a long history of corruption and politicization" in dealing with other diseases.

The new broadsides appeared aimed at refocusing attention during a presidential election year on the shortcomings of WHO and



AP
Germany's Minister of Health Jens Spahn attends a press conference, at the World Health Organization (WHO) headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, Thursday, June 25, 2020.

China early in the pandemic that has since reached nearly 11.9 million confirmed cases and a death toll approaching 545,800.

"There is a real focus on the failures that took place around Wuhan and the World Health Organization's fundamental inability to perform its basic core mission of preventing a global pandemic spread," Pompeo said.

The United Nations and the U.S. State Department announced Tuesday that Washington had submitted formal notification that the U.S. would withdraw from the WHO within a year. The notice made good on Presi-

dent Donald Trump's vow in May to terminate U.S. participation in the WHO over its alleged missteps and kowtowing to China.

Trump's presumptive opponent in November's election, former Vice President Joe Biden, has vowed to rescind the decision on his first day in office, if he is elected.

Underscoring the unprecedented nature of the planned U.S. exit, the WHO doesn't have language in its constitution about how a country could leave: The administration is mostly bound by U.S. legislation that requires a one-year notice and payment of any arrears in full before departure.

Colombia offers path to civilian life for dissident rebels

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)—Colombia is offering rebels who have rejected the nation's historic peace deal and remain in arms a path forward as civilians if they agree to surrender their weapons and cooperate with any judicial proceedings against them.

The new decree does not include the National Liberation Army, whose leaders Tuesday proposed a bilateral 90-day ceasefire. Duque rejected that offer, instead calling on them to free all kidnapping victims and stop all criminal activity.

Talks with the group fizzled in 2018 after a series of bombings against police.

In total the groups are estimated to have several thousand militants who continue to cause violence in conflict-ridden parts of the country.

"The state today is extending its hand," said Miguel Ceballos, Colombia's high commissioner for peace. "This is a moment in which saving lives, as all Colombians and all people on this planet know, should be the priority."

The offer is similar to past government efforts aimed at convincing individual members of illegal armed groups

to surrender rather than negotiate a collective peace deal, as was done with the Revolutionary Armed Forces in 2016, ending Latin America's longest-running conflict.

The new decree does not include the National Liberation Army, whose leaders Tuesday proposed a bilateral 90-day ceasefire. Duque rejected that offer, instead calling on them to free all kidnapping victims and stop all criminal activity.

Talks with the group fizzled in 2018 after a series of bombings against police.

"Our government will never cease to fulfill its constitutional obligation to confront criminality," Duque wrote on Twitter. "The ELN is a terrorist group that has attacked with barbarity our country for decades."

The new decree aimed at four groups heavily involved in the drug trade still requires rebels to go before the justice system, but offers immediate aid with food, housing, health care and education "to start a new life plan."

Ceballos said penalties

would be much higher for rebels like Seuxis Hernández, alias Jesús Santrich, and Luciano Marín, alias Iván Márquez, two guerrilla leaders who were key proponents of the peace accord but later opted to return to arms, accusing the state of betraying the deal.

"This is not a decree of forgiveness or amnesty," he said.

Though not named, ELN rebels can still seek individual surrender under a 2003 law. The new measure was announced in April, but only became effective this week with a new decree outlining the specific steps rebels can take.

Violence still reigns in several parts of Colombia where coca crops have grown at record levels in recent years and the state has little presence. Over 100 social leaders have been killed thus far in 2020, according to Indepaz, a human rights monitoring organization. Prosecutors say illegal armed groups who see the activists as a threat to their territorial control are behind much of the bloodshed.

Science & Technology

Harvard, MIT sue to block ICE rule on international students

BOSTON (AP)—Colleges and universities pushed back Wednesday against the Trump administration's decision to make international

students leave the country if they plan on taking classes entirely online this fall, with Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of

Technology filing a lawsuit to try to block it, and others promising to work with students to keep them on campus.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement notified colleges Monday that international students will be forced to leave the U.S.

or transfer to another college if their schools operate entirely online this fall. New visas will not be issued to students at those schools,

and others at universities offering a mix of online and in-person classes will be barred from taking all of their classes online.

Facebook takes down accounts tied to Roger Stone

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Facebook on Wednesday said it has removed dozens of accounts linked to the hate group Proud Boys, to President Donald Trump's longtime ally Roger Stone and to employees of Brazil's president, Jair Bolsonaro, among others.

A network tied to both Stone and the Proud Boys had fake accounts post about local politics in Florida, as well as Stone's books, websites and media appearances, Facebook said. Stone's own Facebook and Instagram accounts were also banned.

"Roger Stone's personal accounts and his branded assets will be coming down as part of this network," said Nathaniel Gleicher, Facebook's head of cybersecurity policy, in a call with reporters. "Because we saw them deeply enmeshed in the activities here."

Facebook said these accounts were most active from

2015 to 2017 and most have been dormant since.

Stone was sentenced to more than three years in prison after he was convicted of lying to Congress, tampering with a witness and obstructing the House investigation into whether the Trump campaign coordinated with Russia to tip the 2016 election. Attorney General William Barr is scheduled to testify before Congress in July after two of his employees testified that he has politicized the department on behalf of Trump and allowed special treatment of Stone's case.

The Proud Boys were banned from Facebook and Instagram in 2018, but supporters of the organization have tried to get around the ban by creating new pages or accounts. It's the third time in recent months that Facebook has announced the removal of accounts and pages linked to the group.

The accounts linked to

Bolsonaro were removed for spreading misinformation, using fake identities and otherwise violating Facebook's rules.

Facebook's said the accounts were linked to Brazil's Social Liberal Party, which Bolsonaro left last year after winning the 2018 presidential election, and to employees of the president, two of his sons, Sen. Flávio Bolsonaro and congressman Eduardo Bolsonaro, and two other lawmakers.

Brazil's justice is investigating the spread of false news in connection with Bolsonaro, which could affect him in the criminal and in the electoral arenas.

Facebook also removed fake accounts in Ukraine focused on stirring up domestic divisions, as well as a network of accounts originating in Canada and Ecuador and focused on El Salvador, Argentina, Uruguay, Venezuela, Ecuador and Chile.

Seattle (AP)—Two weeks after a cyber-security firm released the identity of an alleged hacker from Kazakhstan, federal authorities in Seattle on Tuesday unsealed a 2018 indictment charging the man with an array of computer crimes.

Andrey Turchin, known in hacking circles as "fxmusp," and his accomplices ran a prolific hacking ring that attacked hundreds of victims, including government agencies, schools, banks and luxury hotel chains on six continents, the indictment said.

Turchin, 37, is believed to be in Kazakhstan; prosecutors had kept the indictment sealed to avoid tipping him off that he was being sought. But in a motion to unseal the charges, the U.S. Attorney's Office in

Seattle wrote that they now believe Turchin knows about the criminal investigation and, given the security firm's public identification of him, there was little reason to keep the indictment sealed.

The government still hopes to have him arrested and sent to the U.S. to face charges, the prosecutors said. It was unclear if Turchin had obtained an attorney who could speak on his behalf.

"By working closely with our international law enforcement partners at the UK's National Crime Agency, along with victims, private sector security researchers and great cooperation from our international law enforcement partners in Kazakhstan, the FBI was able to disrupt Mr.

Turchin and his alleged co-conspirator's criminal intrusions," Raymond Duda, the special agent in charge of the FBI's Seattle field office, said in a news release.

The Singapore-based cyber-security firm Group-IB, which has previously cooperated with international law enforcement agencies, published a report last month on fxmusp's activities, identifying the hacker as Turchin. The firm said Turchin and his associates would attack organizations and then sell access to their networks on underground forums or in private sales, promising buyers they would become the "invisible god of networks."

The group brought in at least \$1.5 million, Group-IB said.

TECH Q&A: Windows 10 updates are creating new problems

By STEVE ALEXANDER
Star Tribune (Minneapolis)



Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; email: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.

One of the big differences between Windows 10 and its predecessors is that it's updated frequently. That may fix flaws, but it also creates new ones.

Last week, Anita Winkley of Winter Haven, Fla., told me she was losing Gmail messages and their attached photos. We both wondered if her e-mail filter settings were to blame.

But it turns out there's a bigger problem with Gmail—it's being sabotaged by a recent upgrade to Windows 10's Mail app (see tinyurl.com/ydemx4te). As a result, the Mail app is now deleting e-mails you have just sent via Gmail, or shifting them to the "spam folder." Some users of the Mail app have been able to rescue their vanished e-mails while others haven't been so lucky.

The problem appears to be caused by either a flawed new Windows 10 update called "version 2004" or by a late May update to just the Windows 10 Mail app. A real fix will have to come from Microsoft but in the meantime there are two workarounds:

■ Bypass the Windows 10 Mail app by signing in to Gmail's web page (gmail.com) instead.

■ Outwit the Mail app by using Gmail's filters (which, oddly enough, turn out to be part of Winkley's solution instead of part of her problem.)

To do that, sign in to the Gmail website. Click the Gmail settings icon (looks like a gear wheel) at the top right

of the screen, then click "see all settings." In the next menu, click the "filters and blocked addresses" tab, then click "create a new filter."

You will see a menu with several choices for filtering e-mail. Ignore everything except the "from" line, where you should type in your own e-mail address. Then click "create filter" at the bottom of the form.

On the next menu, put a check in the box next to "never send it to spam," then again click "create filter." This creates a new "rule" for Gmail: It should never send an e-mail from you to the spam folder.

What can you do about the sent e-mails you have already lost? In some cases, you can retrieve them from the spam folder. But you must act quickly, because the spam folder is automatically emptied every 30 days. Once it has been emptied, those e-mails will be gone forever.

To find the spam folder on Gmail's website, go to the mail folders on the left side of the screen and scroll down until you see "more." Click the down arrow next to it, then

keep scrolling until you reach the spam folder. Open the folder and put a check mark in the box beside the e-mails you want to save, which will highlight them. Right click the highlighted messages, and in the resulting menu click "not spam." The selected messages will be sent to your inbox.

Q: I just upgraded from Windows 7 to Windows 10. Now I can't open my Microsoft Word or Excel files. What's wrong?

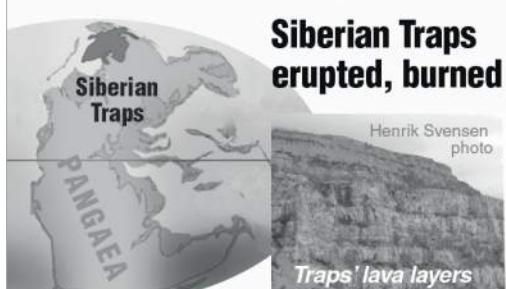
A: Your dilemma may also be caused by the new Windows 10, called version 2004. (For a list of the upgrade's flaws, see tinyurl.com/y7hjt39c.)

But there may be an easy fix for your situation. Microsoft found one common thread among the upgraded Windows 10 PCs that couldn't open Microsoft Office: They all used security programs from Avast Software or its subsidiary, AVG Technologies. Avast is now offering a free download that fixes the software conflict (see tinyurl.com/y978q338) and scroll down to the Avast download link.)

Science Matters

Ancient coal fires and 'Great Dying'

Burning coal deposits heated the atmosphere 250 million years ago — a major disaster at the time of the Permian Extinction, the worst biological catastrophe in Earth's history.



Siberian Traps erupted, burned

Henrik Svensen photo

Traps' lava layers

Land formed the ancient supercontinent of Pangaea

4 After millions of years, ecosystems rebuilt and species recovered

354 Millions of years ago

Age of Amphibians

Permian period

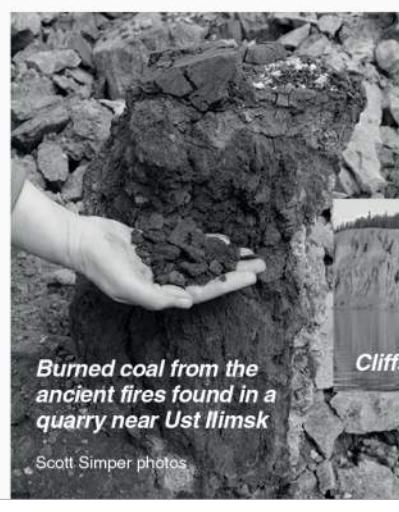
1 Massive eruptions began in vast volcanic region in Siberia, the Traps (Swedish for traps); continued for 2 million years

2 Magma and lava burned plants and ancient, buried coal deposits in the Traps

3 Earth underwent lethal global warming; ocean temperatures exceeded 42°C (104°F) — as hot as a spa hot tub

The Permian Extinction wiped out 96% of all ocean species
70% of land-living vertebrate species

252 GREAT DYING 65 Age of Dinosaurs 0 Age of Mammals



Finding the burned evidence

The hypothesis of volcanic fires in the Traps has long been considered, but evidence was scarce

Researchers had found microscopic remains of burnt coal on a Canadian arctic island

Then new searches along Siberia's rivers found burnt wood and coal among the volcanic rock "prisms" there — major evidence that the coal fire-global warming theory is correct

Cliffs of volcanic rock

Burned coal from the ancient fires found in a quarry near Ust Ilinsk

Source: Lindy Elkins-Tanton of Arizona State University; Steve Grasby of Geological Survey of Canada; Geology (journal); National Geographic; Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service © 2020 TNS

Scott Simper photos

Off The Wall

Doorbell camera catches parking lot birth in Florida

MARGATE, Fla. (AP)—This was not one of those delivery videos that some pregnant moms plan for.

A Florida birthing center says an expectant mother was a few steps from entering the building but her baby couldn't wait. She gave birth while standing up outside, with a midwife catching the baby and a doorbell camera catching all the action.

The Miami Herald reports that Susan Anderson already felt the need to push as her husband drove them to the Natural Birthworks center in Margate. The RING video, shared on Facebook, shows what happened next.

Anderson stands in a T-shirt, maternity shorts and flip-flops, with her husband supporting her and the midwife crouching just behind.

"She's OK, She's OK," Sandra Lovaina, tells two arriving officers. "It's OK. I'm the midwife. She is going to have a baby."

And then a moment later, out she comes—a baby girl that Lovaina catches and passes between the legs to the mom. She cradles the

Dog alerts owner to house fire next door

FRANKLIN, Tenn. (AP)—A dog in Tennessee became a hero on the Fourth of July by alerting her owner to a house fire next door.

Roux, a 3-year-old Belgian Malinois, woke her owner Jeff LeCates with "frantic and unusual barks" on Saturday night, a Franklin Fire Department press release said.

When LeCates opened his door to investigate, Roux burst out and LeCates saw his neighbor's home on fire, officials said.

LeCates banged on their door, waking the family of three and their pets, and then used a garden hose on the fire until firefighters arrived. No one in the home was injured.

Franklin Fire Marshal Andy King said video evidence shows the homeowners throwing away fireworks and other combustibles near their trash can. Consumer fireworks are illegal in Franklin.

The woman whose home caught fire has a special place in Roux's heart.

The press release said the woman is a dog groomer and the reason why LeCates adopted Roux 15 months ago. She knew LeCates had lost his German Shepard and Roux is a similar breed. She helped with the adoption, knowing Roux needed a home.

girl they've named Julia "sorry" before gasping in tears and smiles.

"This momma had a super fast labor," the center said on

June 23. It said the video was being shared with permission,

and both baby and mother are doing fine.

Would-be travelers in Taiwan live out dreams of flying again

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Like almost every region, Taiwan has been hit hard by restrictions on international travel imposed because of the coronavirus. Some residents have found comfort in boarding a flight that didn't take off, just to revisit some memories and plan for the day when they can fly again.

The fantasy flight was organized by Taiwan's Civil Aviation Administration to raise awareness of coronavirus prevention and control procedures to follow when passing through customs and boarding a plane at Taipei International Airport.

Participants won a lucky draw held online, with each allowed to bring a guest, putting the total number who



Participants show their boarding pass and passport during a mock trip abroad at Taipei Songshan Airport in Taipei, Taiwan, Tuesday,

boarded at 66. As with normal flights, they had to check in, obtain boarding passes and go

through immigration and security procedures before being allowed on the plane.

"People who want to fly abroad have long been suffering," said Wang Chih-ching, deputy director of the airport.

The event and the publicity generated will help future travelers better prepare for when international flights resume in earnest, Wang said.

The online draw drew 10,000 entries. After taking their seats, the passengers—all wearing masks—were served food and drinks, participated in a pop quiz and were treated to a good luck salute from fire engines that sprayed water. After they exited without the plane having left the ground, passengers were given a demonstration about security by customs officials accompa-

nied by a sniffer dog.

Lucky draw winner Joyce Nieh and her friend Jessica Liu, both mobile game graphic designers, took selfies to mark the occasion.

"Finally, we're in a plane ... pretending that we're flying abroad," Nieh said.

"I had to cancel all my international travel plans," she said. "We were lucky to win the opportunity to participate."

Taiwan has largely contained the spread of the coronavirus but social distancing and travel restrictions remain in place. The government has reported 449 confirmed cases and seven deaths.

More such fantasy flights are planned for coming days.

IN LOVING MEMORY

†FRANCISCO FUJIHIRA

BABAUTA

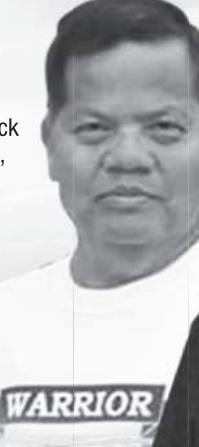
also known as "Tan Ko" or "Ku"

BORN ON AUGUST 18, 1959 & CALLED TO ETERNAL LIFE
IN HONOLULU, HAWAII ON APRIL 09, 2020.



In his new life he now joins his:

Wife : †Justina Henrick Babauta
 Parent : †Maria Fujihira & †Jose Palacios Babauta
 Parents-in-law : †Elelite P. & †Narsisio Henrick
 Sisters/in-laws : †Mina Maria Taga, †Emeterio Baladad and †Benedicta Henrick
 Brothers/in-laws : †Jose Fujihira, †Edward Babauta, †Jose Ayuyu, †Henry Taga, †Jesus Hocog, †Arturo Baladad, †Luciano Henrick, †Mikel Henrick, and †Steve Loyola



He will be greatly be missed by his loving:

Children/Grandchildren:
 Myrna Lynn H. Babauta (Edgar) : Devon Joel & Ethan Franklin
 Maylynn H. Babauta : Kody Angel
 Jayda H. Babauta : Jasmine Ha'Ane & Frankie Joe
 Eldin N. Maratita (Susan) : Eldin Jr., Tammy, John David & Elizha

Sisters/In-laws: Ana (Albert) Lizama and children, Carmen (Anthony) Atalig and children, Nieves (†Jose) Ayuyu and children, Bobbie (†Edward) Babauta and children, Maria (†Jesus) Hocog and children, Marina (†Jose) Fujihira and son, Christina (Melton) Samuel and children, Sulinda (Henry) Ardos and children, Emerika (†Steve) Loyola and children, Bisenda (†Luciano) Henrick and children

Brothers/In-laws: Alejo (Virginia) Babauta and children, Angel Fujihira (Maria) and children, Ben Babauta & Mike Henrick

And numerous nieces, nephews, godchildren, friends and colleagues from CNMI, Guam & Hawaii.

Funeral service will be held on Saturday, July 11, 2020 at St. Jude Church. Our beloved will be escorted from Cabrera Funeral Homes to St. Jude Church at 8:00 a.m. Responso service will take place upon arrival of his remains followed by recitation of Holy Rosary. Mass will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m. followed by procession to Mt. Carmel Cemetery to his final place.

Please observe social distancing and the use of facial masks at all times. Your cooperation and understanding are greatly appreciated.

Thank you, Si Yurus Maase from the children and grandchildren.

Life & Style

ONDON (AP)—Johnny Depp denied an allegation by ex-wife Amber Heard that he is a “Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde” monster who turned violent when he drank and took drugs, though he acknowledged in a London court on Wednesday that he may have done things he can’t remember while he was under the influence.

Depp underwent a second day of cross-examination at the High Court by a lawyer for British tabloid The Sun, which is defending a libel claim after calling the Hollywood star a “wife beater.” Depp is suing The Sun’s publisher, News Group Newspapers, and its executive editor, Dan Wootton, over an April 2018 article that said he’d physically abused Heard.

The “Pirates of the Caribbean” star says Heard’s claims that he assaulted her on multiple occasions are “totally untrue.”

Depp, 57, and Heard, 34, met on the set of the 2011 comedy “The Rum Diary” and married in Los Angeles in February 2015. Heard, a model and actress, filed for divorce the following year and obtained a restraining order

against Depp on the grounds of domestic abuse. The divorce was finalized in 2017.

While neither Heard nor Depp is on trial, the case is a showdown between the former spouses, who accuse each other of being controlling, violent and deceitful during their tempestuous marriage.

The newspaper’s lawyer, Sasha Wass, read the court an email to Depp that Heard had composed in 2013 but never sent, in which she called his behavior a “full on disco blood bath.”

“I just don’t know if I can do this anymore,” she wrote. “It is like Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde. Half of you I love madly, and the other half scares me.”

“Many times you have hurt me. Physically and emotionally from the things you say and did while (messed) up,” she wrote.

Depp said the email was evidence “that Ms Heard was building a dossier” as “an insurance policy for later.”

Depp has acknowledged heavy drinking and drug use, but said Heard’s claim that drugs and alcohol made him a “monster” was “delusional.”

The Sun’s defense relies on Heard’s allegations of 14 incidents of violence by Depp between 2013 and 2016, in locations including Los Angeles,



In UK court, Depp accuses Amber Heard of ‘hoax’ abuse claims

Australia, Japan, the Bahamas and a chartered jet.

Wass asked Depp about a 2014 private plane flight from Boston to Los Angeles. Heard alleges the actor went into a rage during the flight, slapped her and kicked her in the back

because he believed she was having an affair with actor James Franco.

Depp denied assaulting Heard or being out of control on the plane.

Wass then presented Depp with a text he sent after the

flight to a friend, actor Paul Bettany, saying he’d taken “powders ... Half a bottle of Whiskey. A thousand red bull and vodkas, pills, 2 bottles of champs (champagne) on plane.” The message said the result had been “blackout,

screaming obscenities and insulting any (person) who got near.”

“I may have done things that I have no memory of,” Depp said. But he insisted “I am certainly not a violent person, especially with women.”

France's Rodin Museum sells bronzes to weather virus crisis

PARIS (AP)—Unlike other museums thumped by the coronavirus pandemic, Paris’ Rodin Museum might have an ace up its sleeve to help see it through the crisis: It can sell limited-edition versions of the French sculptor’s masterpieces.

The self-financed museum dedicated to the works of Auguste Rodin is facing a mountain of challenges. Tourists were scarce as it reopened Tuesday after four months of virus-enforced closure, and a return to the good old days is a long way off. Signs seeking donations now line its walls.

But a measure of relief may come from a century-

old system set up by Rodin himself allowing the museum to sell up to 12 replicas of select sculptures every year. The bronzes are cast in special workshops in a process overseen by the museum and bought by art galleries, private collectors or other museums. Rodin’s priceless originals are mainly carved out of marble.

The sales have helped his artworks reach a worldwide audience, but up to now, they’ve produced uneven results. Given an expected lockdown-related budget shortfall of 3 million euros (\$3.4 million) this year, the museum wants to turn the bronze sales

into a bigger and more regular source of revenue.

So it is expanding its catalog and reaching out to new markets. It’s already sold out of this year’s copies of “The Thinker” and “The Burghers of Calais,” among the sculptor’s most famous works.

Museum director Catherine Chevillot said Tuesday it has completed 1.4 million euros in sales of bronze replicas of Rodin statues so far this year. In an interview with The Associated Press, she said the museum’s goal is to secure a yearly minimum of 3 million euros in statue sales, a quarter of the museum’s budget.

Gina Prince-Bythewood knows what good fighting looks like. The “Love & Basketball” director has been an athlete her entire life, but she also just loves action movies. So when she started dreaming up the template for a bare-knuckle clash between Charlize Theron and KiKi Layne in the new Netflix film “The Old Guard,” her bar was high: the bathroom fight from “Mission: Impossible—Fallout.”

For her, that meant not cheating by having “flyaway walls” in the aircraft that would make it easier to move the camera around or relying too heavily on stunt doubles who she’d have to cut away from.

The pressure was enormous. It was the first scene she shot on her first ever big budget action pic that was

over 10 times the budget of her last film. She only had five days to do it, where the “Mission: Impossible” team had a month. And it was an historic moment: Before “The Old Guard,” a Black woman had never directed a comic book film. She was acutely aware of the milestone.

“The fact that we’re still having firsts is ridiculous,” Prince-Bythewood said in a phone interview last week. “I knew I could do it. Hollywood just hasn’t caught up to me yet.”

How many people saw ‘Hamilton’? For now, that’s a secret

NEW YORK (AP)—Disney+’s streaming of “Hamilton” was surely the biggest event on television screens over the holiday weekend.

Just how big, however, remains a mystery.

Disney knows, but it’s not telling. Data is coming in to the Nielsen company, too, but won’t be released until Disney gives the go-ahead. “Hamilton” is the poster boy for how the science of measurement is not keeping up with how entertainment content is being consumed.

Disney+, which announced in May that it had signed up 54.5 million paid subscribers worldwide, will not release

information on how many people subscribed in time to get “Hamilton” or how many watched until its next quarterly earnings report, a spokeswoman said.

Nielsen offers plenty of information on who watched television shows the past week. For example, Fox News Channel drew 5.7 million viewers on Friday night when it showed President Donald Trump speaking at Mount Rushmore.

Television viewership is widely known because advertising is the business’ cornerstone. Advertisers need to know exactly how many eyeballs they’re getting for

the money. It’s different for streaming services, which are primarily supported by subscriptions. The industry’s giant, Netflix, set a trend by keeping details about how many people watch their programs largely a secret.

Nielsen said it is repeating what it did in the early days of cable television by letting networks and their corporate owners dictate how much information about how many people are watching is released. Nascent networks figured it was a buzzkill if people learned that the audiences for heavily-promoted shows were small.

AP
A visitor walks past “Le Penseur” (The Thinker) by French sculptor Auguste Rodin in Paris Tuesday, July 7, 2020.



Tyler Perry to pay funeral expenses for girl shot in Atlanta

ATLANTA (AP)—Tyler Perry has offered to pay the funeral expenses for an 8-year-old girl who was fatally shot in Atlanta over the weekend, a representative for the actor and filmmaker confirmed Wednesday.

"I'm outraged today because I'd rather be paying for

8-year-old Secoria Turner's college than her funeral," Perry said in a statement to People magazine. "When does this end?"

Secoria was riding in a Jeep Cherokee with her mother and another adult on Saturday night when they encountered "a makeshift roadblock

that was manned by numerous armed individuals," Atlanta police Lt. Pete Malecki said. When the driver tried to go around the roadblock, shots were fired and the girl was hit, Malecki told reporters at a news conference Tuesday.

Police released a short video Tuesday of an armed man who

they described as a person of interest in the girl's shooting. Malecki said the video comes from a surveillance camera near where Secoria was shot. It shows a Black man in a white shirt and dark pants carrying an AR-15 rifle with a tan stock and grip.

A reward of up to \$20,000

has been offered for information leading to the arrest and indictment of a suspect in the case.

The girl was shot near the Wendy's restaurant where a Black man, Rayshard Brooks, was killed by a white police

officer June 12. The fast food outlet was later burned, and the area has since become a site for frequent demonstrations against police brutality. Perry also paid for Brooks' funeral last month.

With a satirical fictional memoir, Jim Carrey gets real

NEW YORK (AP)—When Jim Carrey and Dana Vachon handed in the book they had toiled on for eight years—a satirical "anti-memoir" about Carrey's life but with increasingly extreme flights of absurdity—to Sonny Mehta, the late Knopf publisher said he would put it out as a novel. Carrey and Vachon protested.

"But Sonny, the project was to blow up the celebrity memoir," they argued.

"Well, yes," replied Mehta. "But how then would you explain the flying saucers?"

"Memoirs and Misinformation," which was published Tuesday, is not an easy book to label. It opens with Carrey binge-watching Netflix while nursing a split from Renée Zellweger (who, here, leaves him for a bullfighter), pleading for his home security system to "Tell me I'm safe and loved" and craving the box-office success that brought him "closer to god."

There's much that's straight from Carrey's life, but it's an inflated version of his persona—"a hyperactive child making yuk-yuks," as the book describes him. With overtones of "Network," Carrey skewers celebrity, Hollywood, ego and himself. There's Brazilian jiu-jitsu

with Nic Cage, spiritual guru gatherings with Kelsey Grammer and a Tom Cruise referenced only as "Laser Jack Lightning." Carrey, himself, is juggling movie options: a Mao Zedong film by Charlie Kaufman or "Hungry Hungry Hippos" in 3-D. Oh, and an apocalypse is approaching.

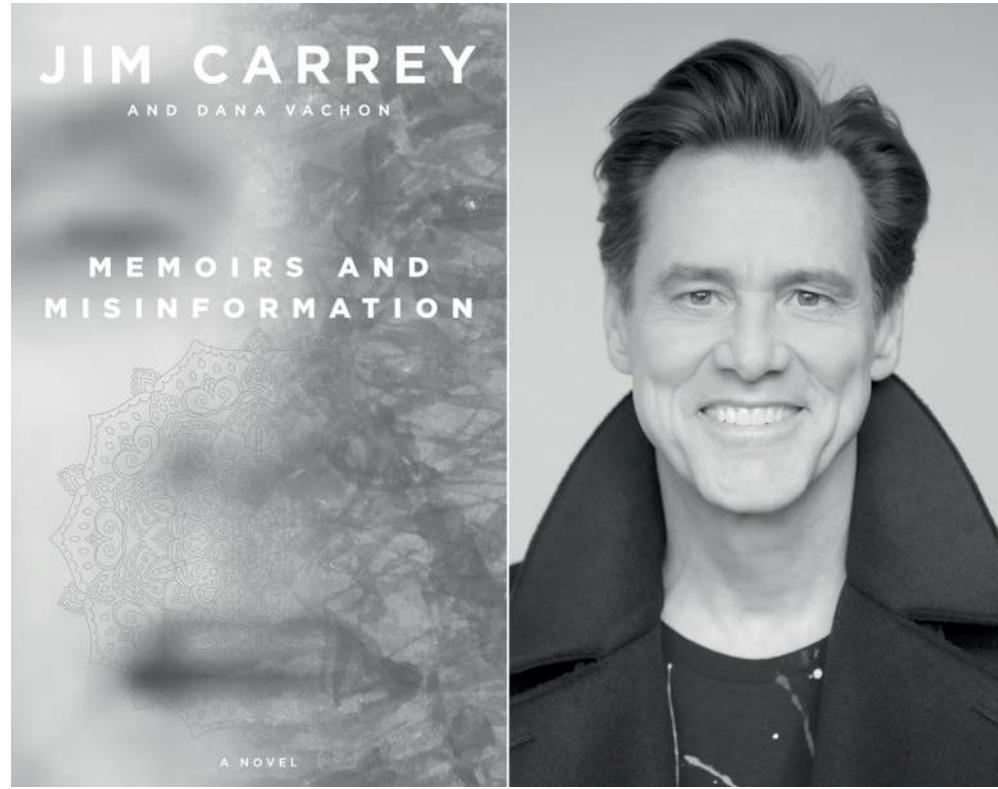
It may sound far-out, but for Carrey, truth lies

in fiction. Even fiction in which Kelsey Grammer and U.F.O.s collide.

"There's a lot of real feeling in this book," said Carrey in a Zoom interview from his home in Hawaii. "It may be done in an out-there way but it sure is real to me."

"Memoirs and Misinformation" is the latest reinvention of the 58-year-old star of

"Ace Ventura: Pet Detective," "The Mask," "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind" and "The Truman Show." After veering into painting and political cartoons, it's yet another new medium for Carrey. (Vachon wrote 2007's "Mergers & Acquisitions.") The book, Carrey says, "is dearer to me than anything I've done."



This combination photo shows the cover of "Memoirs and Misinformation," left, and a portrait of author-actor Jim Carrey.

Family re-imagines Bob Marley classic for COVID-19 relief

NEW YORK (AP)—Bob Marley's Grammy-winning children and chart-topping grandson have re-imagined one of his biggest hits to assist children affected by the coronavirus pandemic.

Stephen Marley, Cedella Marley and her son, Skip Marley, have joined forces to produce a new version of "One Love," which will be released July 17 and will also include special guest appearances from other musicians. A music video will also be released that day.

"Daddy wrote this song like 40 years ago, a long, long time. It just feels like right now in the world we need to have some different type of unity happening. Not just lip service, but real action," Cedella Marley, 52, said in an interview with The Associated Press this week. "I think we're going to bring this song to a generation that needs to know we do care. We do care what happens. We're going to do a nudge and push and a shove and hopefully the message will resonate."

Bob Marley & The Wailers released "One Love" in 1977. Bob Marley died of cancer in 1981 at age 36.

All proceeds from the new version of "One Love," released by Tuff Gong International and Amplified Mu-

sic, will support Reimagine, UNICEF's global campaign for coronavirus relief efforts focused on helping and aiding children around the world.

"(The) song is very special because of (its) message. It's a song of equality. One love meaning love for everyone, for all humanity. It doesn't matter the color, creed or social status or anything like that. It's appreciating the human family. 'One heart, let's get together and feel all right,'" eight-time Grammy winner Stephen Marley said. "It's a very important statement to my family."

Jewelry brand Pandora says it will match every dollar raised from "One Love," giving up to \$1 million.

Cedella Marley said they recorded the song at her house in Miami and they received Rita Marley's blessing. "My mom, she came in and she listened, and she gave us a thumbs up and that seal of approval is priceless."

Skip Marley, the 24-year-old rising star who has collaborated with Katy Perry and Major Lazer, said recording the song reminded him of his first-ever studio session.

"The first time I was ever in a studio recording, we were recording 'One Love.' Actually, you remember, mom?" he said, looking to Cedella Marley.

Cross-country relationship is kept a secret from mom

DEAR ABBY: I'm in high school. My boyfriend lives across the country in a different state. He is a teenager, too. I have asked people for advice about this before and mostly gotten the same answer. They say, "Wait 'til you're older," or, "Your mom is just looking out for you." I don't believe it.

So I'm asking for advice on how to tell my mom that I'm in a long-distance relationship, and I would like to meet him in person. We met on a game about a year and a half ago. We've dated twice before for about a month or two. But now we have been dating for almost five months.

When I told my mom about him, she didn't like him. She doesn't even know him! How can I convince her that he's a good person and she just has to get to know him so she'll let me see him? I'm afraid to tell her because the idea makes me nervous. She refuses to understand that he is good to me, and he loves me and I love him. Although we're only teenagers, we have talked about forever. Do you have any advice for me?

STRUGGLING IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR STRUGGLING: Yes, I do, and I hope you will take to heart what I am about to say because I am not patronizing you. Look at this from your mother's perspective. This young man is someone she has never met in person and neither have you. Yes, you have been talking, but there is no guarantee that he is everything he has represented

himself to be in those conversations.

It is a mother's JOB to protect her child. There is truth to the statement that she is "just looking out for you." I believe the feelings you have for this young man are valid, but I also feel that if he lived close by and your mother could meet him, things might be different.

For the time being, continue communicating with him and perhaps a more serious relationship will develop. However, consider this: What would you do if you finally found yourself in the same room with him and the chemistry wasn't what you expected it would be? This has been known to happen. (Trust me on that!) Time will tell if this is the real thing.

DEAR ABBY: My girlfriend and I have been separated for nearly a year. Prior to this we dated for nearly four years.

After her mom passed, she fell into a depression and was grieving deeply. I went to see her and she said it was over. We've had some contact, but it has dwindled to nothing. I brought my cat into the relationship, and now she won't give it back. She isn't answering my phone calls or texts. I'm blocked. I've tried letters and had friends try to talk to her. It's just mind-boggling.

She's 57 years old. She's not a spring chicken. I will have to go to small claims court to get my cat back. I'd like to salvage the relationship and try to avoid all this.

CAT PROBLEMS IN FLORIDA

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

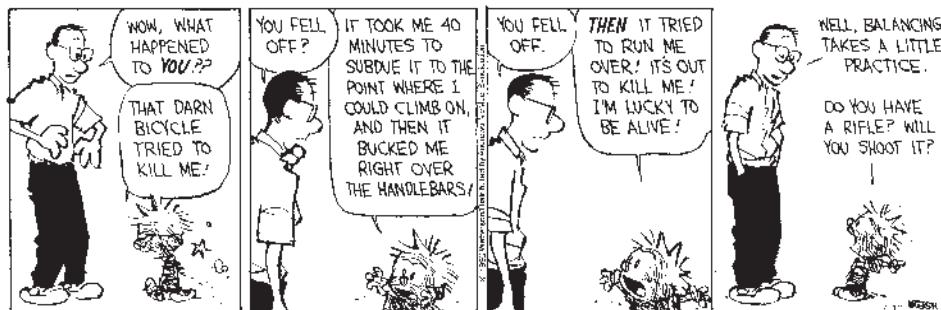


DEAR CAT PROBLEMS: You seem like a nice person, and I sympathize, so I will offer this observation. You deserve an apology from that woman for her behavior. Do not try to salvage the relationship, which appears to have ended when her mother died. In time, you will find a lady friend who will reciprocate your feelings. DO take her to small claims court to get your cat back because, as it stands, it is the safest and most legal way you are going to have your furry family member returned.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson

Garfield®



By Jim Davis

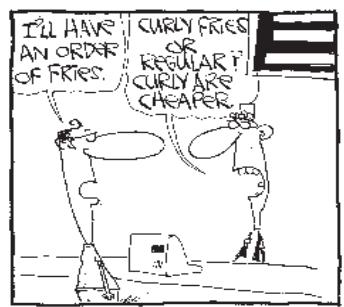


Adam@home

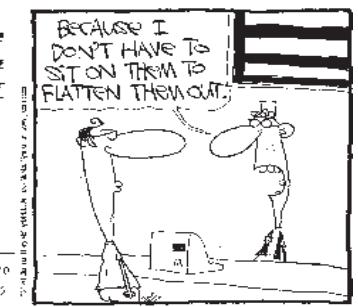


By Bryan Basset

The Duplex



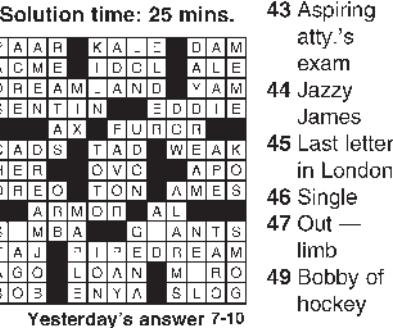
By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	36	Farm	DOWN	20	Reaction
1	— chi	towers	1	Texter's	to fireworks
4	Sports figure?	37 "I give up!"	2	Seethe	23
8	High cards	39 Skedaddle	3	Thus	24
12	Patient's need, briefly	40 Kitchen gadget	4	Till bills	25
13	Spelling or Amos	41 Delphi figure	5	Horse-drawn carriage	26
14	Central point	45 Speed	6	Head light?	27
15	"I'm stumped!"	48 "I'll go second"	7	Words to Brutus	28
17	Singer Feliciano	50 Sicilian resort	8	Hasten	29
18	Caron of "Gigi"	51 Deco artist	9	Ticked off	30
19	Cock-a-doodle—!"	52 Nosh	10	Carries	31
21	Rm. coolers	53 Campus VIP	11	Branch	32
22	"Sure thing!"	54 Harriet Beecher Stowe	12	Like vintage T-shirts	33
26	Molts	55 JFK info	13	Pear variety	34
29	Sneaky chuckle		14	Bill's partner	35
30	Raw mineral		15	Mag. staff	36
31	Millinery		16	Observe	37
32	Help		17	Iris	38
33	Autograph		18	Relatives, for short	39
34	PC key		19	Aspiring atty.'s exam	40
35	SSW opposite		20	Jazzy James	41



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5956 99¢ per minute, touchtone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jessica Simpson, 40; Adrian Grenier, 44; Sofia Vergara, 48; Arlo Guthrie, 73.

Happy Birthday: Follow your passion. Be creative in the way you live your life. Being able to adapt to the changing times will help you plan your future and execute your plans expeditiously. Don't fret if someone close to you takes a different path. It will add to the relationship, not tear you apart. Sharing your separate experiences will lead to personal growth. Your numbers are 9, 13, 23, 26, 35, 39, 47.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Stick to what you know and do best. Take care of responsibilities before someone complains. Do your best to get along and to avoid unnecessary arguments. Focus on health, physical fitness, and looking and feeling your best. **TAURUS** (April 20-May 20): You'll crave change. Don't wait for something to happen; be the one to initiate and demonstrate what you have to offer. Use your smarts and experience to motivate others to support your actions. You can make a difference. **GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): Refuse to let anyone lead you astray. Manipulative tactics are apparent and should not be implemented or allowed by you or anyone else. Fair is fair; take the high road, and you'll have no regrets. **CANCER** (June 21-July 22): A plan you shelved years ago will work now if you give it a trendy twist. Do something that can make a difference in the way you move

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Expressing your thoughts and feelings will help you sort out any situation that has left you feeling uncertain, clearing the way for new and exciting adventures. You are overdue for a change, so stop dreaming and start doing. **SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't believe everything you hear. Someone will try to confuse you with false information or gestures. Spend more time with the person who has always been there for you and brings out the best in you. Romance is

forward. Don't let anger or someone's negativity stand in your way. **Capricorn**

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Life lessons will be costly if you let an outsider meddle. Listen to suggestions, but when it comes to doing the work or following up, do it yourself. The process will help you understand the intricate steps required to be successful. **Virgo**

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): If you let someone play mind games with you, you will be in a vulnerable position. Step up, speak your mind and clarify what you will put up with and what you will not. Set fair guidelines that accommodate everyone's needs. **Libra**

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Pay attention to your needs. It's important to rejuvenate and pump up your confidence. A new look will put a spring in your step and a smile on your face. Keep the changes you make simple, sophisticated and within budget. **Scorpio**

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Expressing your thoughts and feelings will help you sort out any situation that has left you feeling uncertain, clearing the way for new and exciting adventures. You are overdue for a change, so stop dreaming and start doing. **Sagittarius**

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Refuse to let anyone lead you astray. Manipulative tactics are apparent and should not be implemented or allowed by you or anyone else. Fair is fair; take the high road, and you'll have no regrets. **Cancer**

CANCER (June 21-July 22): A plan you shelved years ago will work now if you give it a trendy twist. Do something that can make a difference in the way you move

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY



COURTESY 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Look and follow through. You'll have great ideas that can transform your home, relationships or lifestyle. Mix the old with the new, and you will be able to cut corners that will allow you to spend on things that matter. **Aquarius**

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Put greater emphasis on fitness and living a healthy lifestyle. Personal improvements will put you in a better frame of mind and help you make better decisions when it comes to your living arrangements. Let experience be your guide. **Pisces**

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Consider the changes you want to make. Look at what you have done and how you feel about your accomplishments, and you'll know what's required to help you reach your goals. Don't mimic what others do; think and act for yourself. **Birthday Baby:** You are smart, determined and aggressive. You are ambitious and intuitive. Visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn. Copyright 2020 Andrews McMeel Syndication

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

5		4		2	
	2		1		
3	8	1	6		
6			9		
9				8	
5			7		
1	7	6	5		
7			8		
2	8		6		

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

8	7	6	1	3	9	5	2	4
2	9	3	4	6	5	8	1	7
5	1	4	2	7	8	9	6	3
1	8	5	9	4	2	3	7	6
7	3	9	8	1	6	2	4	5
4	6	2	3	5	7	1	8	9
9	4	7	5	8	1	6	3	2
6	5	8	7	2	3	4	9	1
3	2	1	6	9	4	7	5	8

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

NATIONAL EMBLEMS

Solution: 8 letters

N	R	E	T	A	W	M	S	E	V	A	E	L	S	R
I	O	P	L	M	E	O	P	H	O	R	S	E	L	E
A	L	R	H	O	C	T	O	C	R	I	B	B	O	N
T	O	G	T	R	G	T	R	C	G	I	C	T	G	N
N	C	S	Q	A	A	O	T	N	R	L	R	A	A	A
U	T	W	K	L	P	S	I	D	P	E	O	O	N	B
O	N	O	E	U	D	F	E	A	C	R	S	B	P	L
M	E	R	N	E	I	L	R	N	M	T	S	T	E	A
O	M	D	S	C	O	L	A	R	E	I	E	A	M	A
N	U	O	A	B	I	D	T	E	U	H	N	C	I	
U	R	N	M	A	N	C	E	O	R	W	I	T	E	N
M	T	Y	M	R</td										

Kawhi's arrival at Disney will be delayed

FLORIDA (AP)—A person with knowledge of the situation says that Kawhi Leonard did not accompany the Los Angeles Clippers on their flight to Central Florida on Wednesday night for the restart of the NBA season.

Leonard's absence was excused and he is expected to join the team at the Disney complex near Orlando sometime in the next few days, said the person who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the team did not publicly disclose the matter.

Yahoo Sports first reported that Leonard was not on the flight to the Orlando area.

The Clippers are scheduled to spend Thursday and part of Friday satisfying quarantine requirements, and are expected to practice for the first time at Disney on Friday night. They will resume game play on July 30, matching up with the Los Angeles Lakers in the second game of a re-opening night doubleheader.

Leonard is averaging a team-best 26.9 points this season for the Clippers, who are currently second in the Western Conference behind only the Lakers. He is the reigning NBA Finals MVP, after helping Toronto win the title last season.

The Clippers are 38-13 when Leonard plays, 6-7 when he doesn't. They're also 17-3 in games where he scores at least 30 points this season.

Magic player tests positive

The race for the final two playoff spots in the Eastern Conference keeps getting sadder. Somehow.

BELGRADE—Novak Djokovic, who recently tested negative for coronavirus after testing positive during his Balkans charity event, told a Serbian newspaper on Wednesday that he still was not sure if he would play the US Open.

"I still do not know if I will play the US Open," the tennis world number one said in an interview with the Sportski Zurnal daily paper.

"I will certainly not play Washington or Cincinnati as planned."

The ATP and WTA tours are set to resume next month, even though several professional players have contracted COVID-19.

The US Open will be the first Grand Slam following the restart, due to get underway behind closed doors in New York on August 31.

Djokovic resumed training on Tuesday and said he would take part on clay events.

"Participation at Roland



AP

In this Dec. 11, 2019 file photo, Los Angeles Clippers forward Kawhi Leonard (2) stretches for the ball as Toronto Raptors forward OG Anunoby (3) looks on during the second half of an NBA game in Toronto.

The Nets are decimated. The Wizards are missing their best players. And the Magic—who already have Jonathan Isaac and Al-Farouq Aminu sidelined—have complications with Markelle Fultz and another unnamed player.

The Orlando Magic entered the NBA bubble Tuesday without an unidentified player who tested positive for COVID-19 and guard Markelle Fultz, whose entry was delayed due to a personal issue.

Magic president of basketball operations Jeff Weltman said during a videoconference with reporters on Tuesday that Fultz is dealing with a personal matter unrelated to the virus. His absence is excused and the league is aware of his

situation, according to Weltman. He said Fultz is following all safety protocols and expects a "seamless transition" for the guard's return, although Weltman did not have a specific timetable for when that will be.

It's unclear whether the unnamed player was among the 25 players the NBA announced tested positive.

Fultz and the other player will have to follow protocols for players travelling to Disney World after their teams arrive.

The Magic have D.J. Augustin and Michael Carter-Williams at point guard if Fultz is unavailable. But I'll take Weltman at his word that Fultz will return to the

team smoothly.

'Bubble' life

Starting Tuesday (and through Thursday), players began arriving in Orlando to enter the NBA bubble and restart of the season.

Immediately, some took to social media to document the experience.

What's life in the bubble like? For the first 24-48 hours, it looks like a hotel room—players get a coronavirus test soon after arrival, then have to quarantined in their hotel room until they pass that and a second test at least 24 hours later and are cleared. What are the rooms like?

Stuck in their rooms, the players are watching TV and

eating the room-service meals provided—and food became an NBA Twitter topic.

Players will eat a lot better in the NBA bubble once they can go to the restaurants in the hotels, it's just for the first couple days of quarantine they have to eat room service meals.

"During the required quarantine period when teams first arrive to the NBA Campus at Orlando, meals are delivered directly to hotel rooms," a league spokesperson told NBC Sports. "Each of the 22 NBA teams were paired with a Disney culinary team, who meets with each NBA team's nutritionists regularly to create menus to support specific team needs. After clearing quarantine, players will also

have access to various restaurants on campus and delivery options to choose from. Players will receive three meals a day and four meals on game-days. There is never a shortage of food options—players can always request additional food by speaking with their team nutritionists."

No matter the food, no matter how nice the room is, being stuck in a hotel room for a couple of days straight is not a lot of fun—which is why CJ McCollum had his own wine shipped to him at the hotel, just for this moment. At least he's got a good glass.

Things will look a lot better in a few days when players are out of their rooms and out on the practice courts.

of Roger Federer—who has already announced that he will not play again this season after undergoing a second bout of keyhole surgery on his troublesome right knee. Djokovic stands on 17.

Although Nadal would be passing up the chance to equal Federer by skipping the US Open, he would also be improving his chances of winning a 13th French Open at Roland Garros, in a rescheduled event that is intended to begin on September 27.

The US Open has already confirmed at least one star participant, after Serena Williams appeared as part of the tournament's curtain-raising video conference on June 17. Increasingly, however, the ongoing outbreaks of Covid-19 around the USA are raising questions about whether the planned American swing—which is supposed to begin in Washington on August 14—can actually take place. (AP/NBC)

Djokovic still undecided over US Open

Garros is certain for now, Madrid and Rome are part of my agenda," he said.

The Serbian said he thought the ATP's revised ranking system, due to be introduced in August, was "correct".

Djokovic said on July 2 that he and his wife Jelena had both tested negative for coronavirus after testing positive during the Adria Tour in late June.

The couple had been self-isolating since returning to Belgrade from Croatia, where the second leg of his ill-fated tournament was held.

Four players—Djokovic, Grigor Dimitrov, Borna Coric and Viktor Troicki—tested positive for the virus after the event which saw little social distancing and packed stands.

Djokovic's coach Goran Ivanisevic also contracted COVID-19.

Players had embraced across the net, played basketball and even danced in a nightclub during the week of the first leg played in Belgrade.

Djokovic, widely criticized for hosting the tournament, issued an apology, saying he was "so deeply sorry" that the event "caused harm".

But Djokovic said the widespread criticism he received was like a "witch hunt".

"I see nothing but critics lately, many malicious. Obviously there is something more than criticism, as if there is an agenda, someone has to 'fall', a personality, a big name has to be the main culprit for everything," he said.

Nadal confirmed for Madrid Masters

The odds on Rafael Nadal



showing up to defend his title at next month's US Open grew much longer on Wednesday when Nadal confirmed that he will play in the rescheduled Madrid Masters event on clay. This starts on Sunday, September 13, the same day as the US Open final.

Even though Nadal would not have to start his campaign in Madrid until the Tuesday or even the Wednesday, it would still be a big ask to switch from hard courts to clay in such a short time. On top of that, it is possible that players could be required to quarantine themselves after returning from the USA.

Should Nadal not travel to New York, he would be the first male to voluntarily concede a grand-slam title without defending it since Pete

Sampras retired after winning the 2002 US Open. Among the women, Marion Bartoli also retired after winning Wimbledon in 2013.

Another factor for Nadal to chew over is a new wrinkle in the ATP rankings, introduced to protect players from being unfairly affected by the pandemic. You can now use your best 18 results over a 22-month period, rather than the usual 12 months. But you can only use the same tournament once.

In other words, Nadal's world ranking would not be affected by declining to play in New York, as he could still fall back on the maximum 2,000 points that he won last year. He would, however, be missing out on a potential \$3.7 million in prize money.

As for the title itself, Nadal stands on 19 majors, one short

Ryder Cup postponed until 2021; Presidents Cup pushed back



NEW YORK (AP)—Seth Waugh knows how a Ryder Cup is supposed to look and how it should sound.

In his first week as CEO at the PGA of America, Waugh was in the 72-foot high grandstand behind the first tee at Le Golf National outside Paris. Flags were waving. Fans were singing. Players were trying to conceal their nerves. That's what he expects for the Ryder Cup at Whistling Straits in Wisconsin.

Next year.

The inevitable became reality Wednesday when Ryder Cup officials postponed the September matches until next year due to the COVID-19 pandemic that made it increasingly unlikely the loudest event in golf could have spectators.

"A Ryder Cup with no fans is not a Ryder Cup," Waugh said.

The Ryder Cup was scheduled for Sept. 25-27 at Whistling Straits along the Lake Michigan shore. Because of a reconfigured schedule created by golf being shut down for three months, the matches would have been held one week after the U.S. Open.

Now, the Ryder Cup will move to Sept. 24-26, 2021, the second time in the last two decades it was postponed. The Sept. 11 terrorist attacks led the 2001 matches to be postponed two weeks before they were set to be played.

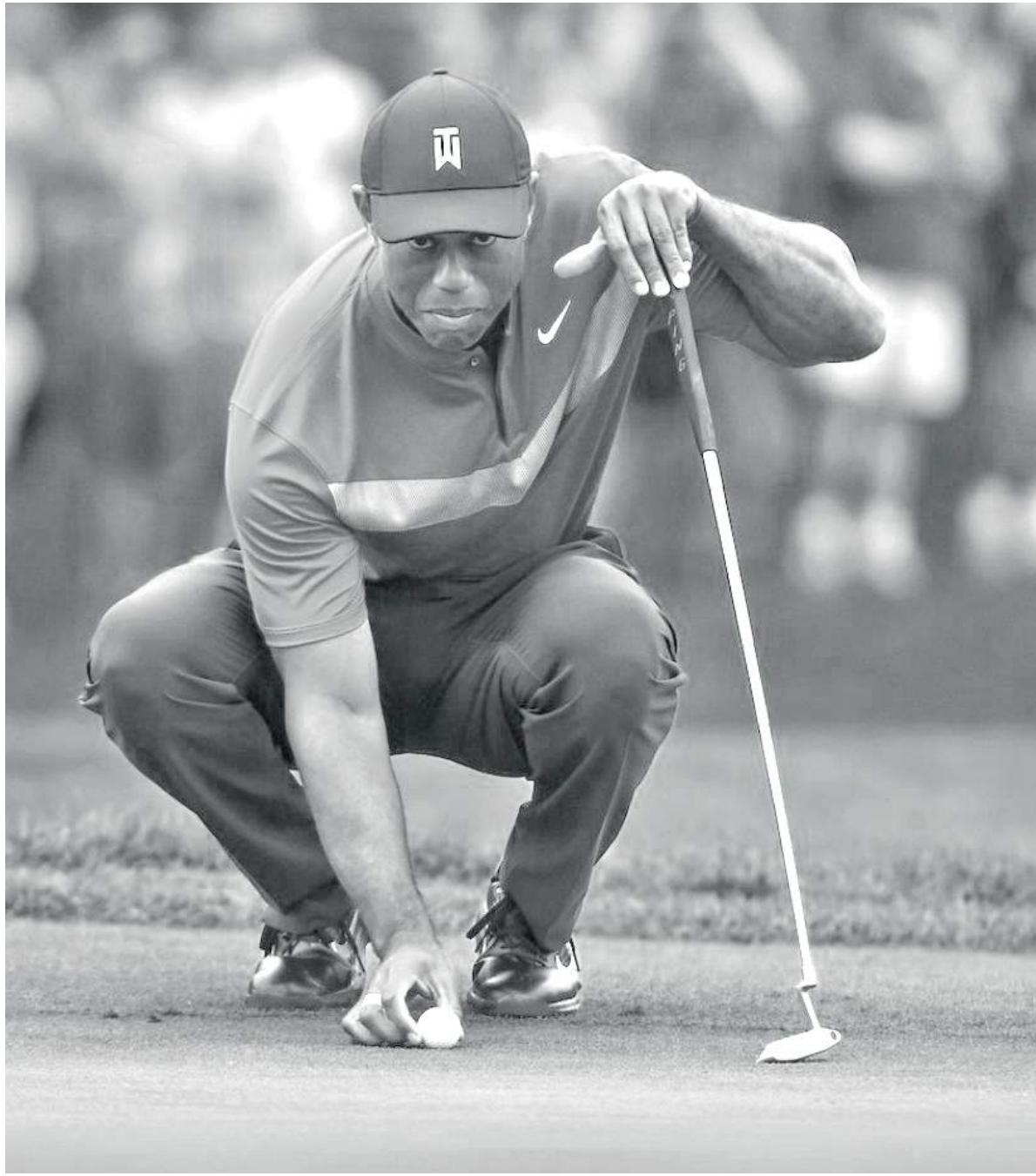
Waugh, the former CEO of Deutsche Bank Americas, called it "the most complicated deal of my career" because of so many moving parts.

The decision means Europe's next home Ryder Cup set for Italy has been pushed back until 2023. The European Tour thrives on Ryder Cup revenue.

And it affects the PGA Tour, which already has lost millions this year while trying to keep canceled tournaments solvent. The Presidents Cup in 2021 at Quail Hollow in North Carolina was a sellout in corporate hospitality, and it now gets pushed back a year.

Quail Hollow instead will host the Wells Fargo Championship next spring, and that event will move to the TPC Potomac in 2022 during the Presidents Cup year.

"It was very clear that once we re-



In this Dec. 13, 2019 file photo, U.S. team player and captain Tiger Woods lines up a putt on the 17th green in their foursomes match during the President's Cup golf tournament at Royal Melbourne Golf Club in Melbourne.

in San Francisco will be the first major without fans.

Waugh raised the notion of canceling the Ryder Cup if the coronavirus situation hasn't changed by next September, though he was "betting on science."

The Americans, who won the last Ryder Cup on home soil in 2016, changed their qualifying because of the three-month shutdown that allowed Steve Stricker six captain's picks. With the postponement, the U.S. and European teams are reviewing their criteria. Europe said its Ryder Cup points earned since last September have been frozen until next year.

Players had urged all along for the Ryder Cup to be postponed if fans couldn't be there.

"The decision to reschedule is the right thing to do under the circumstances," Stricker said. "At the end of the day, we want to stage a Ryder Cup that will rival all other Ryder Cups in my home state of Wisconsin, and now we have the opportunity to showcase the event as it was meant to be seen."

The move does nothing to ease a crowded golf schedule for 2021. The Summer Olympics already were postponed with hopes Tokyo can host them next summer. Golf also has three other cups on the calendar—the Walker Cup and Curtis Cup for amateurs, and the Solheim Cup on the LPGA Tour, which is scheduled to finish on Labor Day next summer at Inverness Club in Toledo, Ohio.

When the Ryder Cup was postponed because of 9/11, that led to the Solheim Cup in Minnesota and the Ryder Cup in England being played in consecutive weeks in 2002. The Solheim Cup then moved to odd-numbered years.

Next year "is shaping up to be an incredible year for golf," LPGA Commissioner Mike Whan said. "The LPGA looks forward to staging the Solheim Cup over Labor Day weekend at Inverness Club in Ohio, and the Ryder Cup just a few weeks later at Whistling Straits in Wisconsin will cap an amazing month for golf fans in the Midwest. We are excited for this doubleheader opportunity to celebrate all the great golfers, male and female, who play for the USA and Europe."

set the schedule, there were challenges," PGA Tour Commissioner Jay Monahan said. "They did absolutely everything they could to play the Ryder Cup and play it with fans. When it was clear that was something they were unable to do, we came to the table and were about to reach the right outcome for players and fans."

Franco Chimenti, president of the Italian Golf Federation, told The Associated Press the postponement gives Rome more time to prepare the Marco Simone Golf and Country Club.

"We would have been ready (by 2022), and now we'll be ready by 2023," Chimenti said. "We're about to inaugurate the course. We don't have problems."

Among the issues caused by the pandemic was travel by European fans, who would have had to spend a month in quarantine—two weeks both coming and going—for three days of matches. The environment at the Ryder Cup is unlike any other in golf, with distinctive tones of cheering from Europeans and Americans,

hour-by-hour tension over 28 matches from the opening tee shot Friday morning until the final putt Sunday afternoon.

"The Ryder Cup is uniquely about the fans," Waugh said. "We didn't want to build Lambeau Field, get hopes up and then have to cancel."

There is no guarantee moving it back a year will change anything. The PGA Tour resumed its schedule a month ago and has not allowed spectators for at least seven events. The PGA Championship on Aug. 6-9



NEW YORK (AP)—Tim Flynn was looking forward to one final year as the mayoral host of training camp for the Dallas Cowboys in Oxnard, California.

So much for that.

The pandemic forced the NFL to abandon, at least for this year, the fading but still time-honored tradition of teams traveling to training camp.

The league's version of a stay-at-home order will end the latest California run for the Cowboys, stop the 54-year streak for the Pittsburgh Steelers in Latrobe, Pennsylvania, and keep the Carolina

Panthers away from the only campsite the 25-year-old franchise has known.

And Flynn won't get that final, formal goodbye with Cowboys owner Jerry Jones. Camps are scheduled to start July 28.

"It's a little bit of a disappointment for me individually because I'm moving on," said Flynn, who is running for another office in Ventura County after 14 years on the Oxnard City Council, the last eight as mayor.

"But you know what? I'll still be able to see the practices. I just won't be mayor doing it. That's kind of like my own

special relationship there."

Flynn is confident the Cowboys will be back after one year in Texas. Dallas will hold the entirety of camp in its home market for the first time. It will be in the sparkling facility that opened four years ago and can handle the logistics because of an indoor field that can keep players out of the Texas heat.

But even before the opening of the sprawling complex 30 minutes north of Dallas, Flynn said he never worried about whether Jones would quit bringing the Cowboys to California.

Likewise, Flynn isn't con-

cerned that Jones & Co. will suddenly realize they have everything they need in the suburb of Frisco and don't have to make the NFL's longest trip for training camp: about 1,500 miles.

Among the biggest assets about 60 miles north of Los Angeles are mild weather and two side-by-side outdoor grass fields next to a hotel that houses all players, coaches and staff members.

"There's just nothing that can replace it," Flynn said. "The lure of California will always be there. And if not just for the Cowboys, it is for many other teams. But we

have a very special relationship with the Cowboys and we want that to continue."

Officials with Wofford College in Spartanburg, South Carolina, are preparing for the permanent departure of the Panthers.

The club is building a practice facility in Rock Hill, still in South Carolina but about 40 miles closer to downtown Charlotte.

When the new building opens, training camp and everything else will be held there—as it is with the majority of NFL teams. For decades, most or all teams trained elsewhere in the summer. That number

has dwindled to single digits.

Wofford, the alma mater of former owner Jerry Richardson, built locker rooms and facilities specifically for the expansion Panthers, who debuted in 1995.

"We've enjoyed hosting them, made a lot of friendships and learned a lot," said athletic director Richard Johnson, who was Wofford's men's basketball coach when the Panthers showed up.

"I think the ancillary benefit to hosting camps is you get kind of the side benefit, the expertise of that organization. We're going to miss that. It's always good to have visitors on campus. So we're gonna miss that as well."

Safe at home: Off-field behavior will be decisive for MLB



M I A M I
(AP)—Re-

liever Nick Vincent signed last week with the Miami Marlins and settled in for two days of quarantine in his hotel room while awaiting clearance to join workouts.

"That was a little bit different," he said. "In 48 hours, you're definitely a little stir-crazy."

Vincent spent a lot of time watching TV, including the news, which reinforced that it was wise to lay low with the coronavirus crisis worsening in Florida and much of the country.

And as Major League Baseball attempts to salvage the

2020 season, behavior away from the ballpark will help determine the outcome. Just like on the field, success will depend on how many players are safe at home.

"That's going to be the biggest challenge for this game to move forward -- the off-the-field stuff and what guys do," said Vincent, an eight-year major league veteran. "It's just going to take one team to mess it up for everybody. I hope everybody gets that. It'll take five guys to get a whole team sick, and then if a whole team is sick, that could end the season for everybody else."

Multiple issues could sabotage baseball's relaunch. Some players—including

David Price of the Los Angeles Dodgers and Ryan Zimmerman of the Washington Nationals—decided not to take part because of the health risk, and testing glitches further raised concerns. Positive tests for four Atlanta Braves, including four-time All-Star first baseman Freddie Freeman, underscored the fragility of MLB's plan to navigate the pandemic.

There's also worry regarding what happens when players are away from work and beyond whatever bubble can be created at the ballpark.

"Guys are 23, 24. They're young. They're in a sense bullet-proof," Marlins manager Don Mattingly said. "But

fit in the first week, which was kind of expected because of no training on ground. We are now in Phase 2, which means no physical contact during training. And during this phase, we focus on getting back our fitness and getting back the 'feeling' of the ball," Tuazon said.

The system works for her since she's still recovering from injury.

"I just came back from a serious injury and I'm working my way up again. The team will be heading to Phase 3 soon and that's good for all

of us because we will be able to challenge each other, which also means we'll be making ourselves better and getting back on track," Tuazon said.

Tuazon and company are back on the grind to get ready for four competitions—Marianas Cup, East Asian Football Federation E-1 Football Championship 2021 Round 1, and two Asian Football Confederation-organized events (U20 and U17 age groups). Dates and venues of these four tournaments have yet to be announced due to the uncertainties brought by COVID-19.



Katrina Costales, right, undergoes the routine temperature check before proceeding to the pitch at the NMI Soccer Training Center.



The portable benches at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville have limited seats to observe social distancing during the CNMI national team's training.

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sistant coach Angie Ito.

"Everything we do surrounds social distancing and sanitizing before and after training. We have made guidelines and protocols for players and parents/guardians to follow. Before the resumption of training we had online meeting with the players of the do's and don'ts at the pitch," Ito said.

Khristelle Itaas leads the women's U18 group training every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday afternoons and admits that it's quite a challenge to return to their usual routine after a long break and with limitations on their movements at the field.

"After months of not training, it's been tough because our endurance wasn't there. The new set up is very different because we have to always observe social distancing. Personally, the challenge I face in training is getting back my fitness. There are times during training where I'd be extremely tired and my mind would tell me to rest," Itaas said.

"However, I have to remain focused and work on regaining my fitness back," she added.

Ito said that although their players are taking time to adjust to the new system of training, she has been seeing improvement from them in every session and she believes this is because of the presence of each other at the pitch.

"I believe the girls enjoy the sessions because they get to see their teammates, while coaches are able to supervise the players better. Also, there is better motivation for the girls when they see each other on the field. I'm sure they just really missed NMISTC itself," said Ito, who used to work with the three teams online.

Krizel Tuazon, who trains with the women's national team, said she likes how the training sessions resumed by phases.

"Some of us girls weren't



Washington Nationals shortstop Trea Turner throws during a baseball training camp workout at Nationals Park, Wednesday, July 8, 2020, in Washington.

if we're going to run around at night and do whatever we want to do, we're going to put everybody's family at risk."

Long lines of cars at the virus testing site at the Marlins' ballpark provide the team with a daily reminder of the hazards off the field.

Players broadly acknowledge they must police themselves—and each other. Dodgers ace Clayton Kershaw said he trusts his teammates to act responsibly away from the ballpark, but he acknowledged it might be harder for players

who are single or living in confined spaces like apartments.

"Everyone has to take accountability for being as safe as possible, and I have trust in that," Kershaw said.

"If you want to see the season through, if you want to give it the best shot, you can't be stupid."

MLB has given players guidance regarding off-the-field conduct during the pandemic, discouraging the sort of after-the-game activities that have been part of baseball since before Babe Ruth toast-

ed his first home run.

Or, as Chicago Cubs manager David Ross put it: "We're not going to be able to go out to bars. That would be an extremely selfish move."

Potential repercussions extend beyond any player seeking a thirst-quencher to his family, teammates, opponents and even the sport's ability to continue.

Part of the motivation for good behavior might be the same thing that drives most things in baseball—wins and losses.

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ment were adapted to level the playing field for a wide range of handicaps so that no team had a huge advantage. Your handicap dictates which tee box you played from and how many mulligans you were allowed to hit," he added.

The annual WGC also always supports a great cause and for this year, the \$905 funds raised will be donated to the Saipan Cares for Animals.

"The tournament is open to everyone but is not publicly advertised and instead, it has been a more word of mouth tournament and so most people who are playing are close friends or friends of friends. When I opened registration for the tournament, it filled up in just over an hour. In the 11th WGC, 16 of the 60 participants were new to the tournament," Wollak said.

"The main thing I hear is that it is a lot of fun and they like the camaraderie of it. Nobody takes themselves too seriously and the rules are designed to make golf easier and more fun, especially for the higher handicappers," he added.

Kingfisher Golf Course awarded four free golf vouch-

ers to the winning team, while sponsor MARPAC gave away products such as Landshark, Shock Top, and Bud Copper Lager. Busch t-shirts, Busch, and Bud Light cozies, Landshark beach towels, TaoTao Bud t-shirts, Budweiser Title-



Organizer Dan Wollak, left, presents a hat to Jeremy Rother for making a hole-in-one shot in last Saturday's 11th Wollak Golf Classic at the Kingfisher Golf Links.

AP

KAY ELLIOT



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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

CNMI players back to the grind

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Training with restrictions may be tough to the female members of CNMI National Team, but they will take it any time of the day just to get their high fitness level back.



Just like their male counterparts, the islands' female strikers (from women's team and U18 and U16 age groups), have resumed their actual training sessions last month after nearly three months of staying away from the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville due to the COVID-19 pandemic. They are working out together, but in small groups, and are strictly observing social distancing rules and other safety guidelines set by the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association and the government, according to as-

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville hosts the training sessions of the Commonwealth's female players three times a week.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In this 2018 photo, CNMI Women's National Team's Krizel Tuazon, right, is slightly ahead of a Guam player and her teammate Sharmaine Francisco as they chase the ball during the Marianas Cup held at the NMI Soccer Training Center.

'Irish Cart Bomb' blasts foes in golf tournament

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

 "Irish Cart Bomb" bested 14 other teams to top the 11th Wollak Golf Classic held last Saturday at the Kingfisher Golf Links.

The winning team is made up of Yogi Singh, Eric O'Malley, Glenn Smith and Steve Mullin and they shot a 67 to put their names on the perpetual WGC trophy.

Sharing the spotlight with "Irish Cart Bomb" in the 2020 edition of the annual tournament was hole-in-one winner and second-time WGC participant Jeremy Rother. He sank the ace on the par-3, 140-yard No. 15.

"Was it planned? I guess you always try to aim for a hole-in-one at every par and that shot was a fun surprise," the Marianas High School teacher said.

Meanwhile, according to WGC organizer Dan Wollak, the first WGC took place on Memorial Weekend in 2014.

"I wanted to put together a fun little golf tournament

with my golfing buddies before people left for summer travel. My goal was to create a low-pressure, team-based tournament and tried to create some adapted rules so that

the people who are higher handicap golfers could still contribute to their teams," Wollak said.

"The rules of the tourna-

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KAY ELLIOT

From left, Glenn Smith, Steve Mullin, Yogi Singh, and Eric O'Malley of "Irish Cart Bomb" pose for a photo after ruling the 11th Wollak Golf Classic held last Saturday at Kingfisher Golf Links.